

## Hizbollah fire rockets into 'Security Zone'

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Hizbollah guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets into Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon during the night after a day of fierce Israeli air and ground bombardment, security sources said Saturday. They said at least seven rockets hit the town of Marjayoun shortly before midnight but reported no casualties. Hizbollah radio said the guerrillas also fired Katyushas at "military installations" in two other Israeli-occupied towns. Israeli helicopters, tanks and artillery blasted into Al Toudah ridge Friday after one soldier was wounded in Hizbollah shelling on an Israeli post on the tip of the buffer enclave. About 250 shells hit the Hizbollah-held ridge, wounding one civilian. Sources expected an upsurge in Hizbollah's hit-and-run attacks on Israeli forces the coming month. They said the attacks would mark the first anniversary of the killing of Hizbollah chief Sheikh Abbas Musawi and his wife and son in an Israeli helicopter ambush last Feb. 16.

# Jordan Times

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## Iraqi rebels claim breaching dams

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi Shiite Muslim rebels claimed Saturday that they breached sand dams in southern Iraq in an effort to sabotage Baghdad's efforts to drain marshlands. The largest Shiite rebel group, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said its guerrillas "opened holes" in several dams in Al Amarah province close to the Iranian border. "Water started flowing... which made the regime attack these areas using artillery and tanks," the group said in a telegram from its headquarters in Tehran. "Council sources asserted that the Islamic resistance repulsed and stopped these attacks," it said, adding: "The clashes are still continuing." It claimed five government military vehicles were destroyed and more than 50 army troops killed, with "large numbers" more wounded.

## Kuwait starts diplomatic drive

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah started a tour of 13 countries in the Middle East, Asia and Africa Saturday to rally support following a month of heightened tension with Iraq. The official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said Sheikh Sabah arrived in Saudi Arabia on the first leg of his tour to explain Kuwait's position during the crisis with its northern neighbour. It quoted Sheikh Sabah as saying upon arriving in Riyadh that he was carrying a letter from Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah to Saudi King Fahd on U.N. moves to ensure an Iraqi compliance with Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

## U.N. keeps door open for Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (AP) — The United Nations will continue to hold the door open for the rebel Khmer Rouge faction to join the U.N. peacekeeping operation, U.N. chief Yasushi Akashi said Saturday. "U.N. Resolution 792 calls upon us to continue the dialogue and keep the door open as long as possible for the (Khmer Rouge)," Mr. Akashi said after returning from a meeting in Beijing of the Cambodian Supreme National Council. The historic nine-hour meeting, set May 23 as the date for U.N.-supervised elections, which will go ahead without the Khmer Rouge, which dropped out of the peace forces last June and has since refused to rejoin.

## Queen wants dialogue with Labour Party

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth is seeking to set up a regular dialogue with the left-wing Labour Party in what newspapers say is an attempt to broaden her understanding of the mood of the people. The queen, who traditionally has a weekly audience with the prime minister, also wants to establish regular meetings with the leader of the main opposition party, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said Saturday.

## Saudi envoy visits Yemen on dispute

SANAA (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd sent a letter to Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh Saturday on talks to settle a border dispute and improve strained relations. Officials said the letter was delivered by Saudi Education Minister Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah. They quoted Mr. Saleh as telling the Saudi minister that Yemen was keen to improve ties with the kingdom. Yemen and Saudi Arabia are negotiating to settle a dispute over a potentially oil-rich border region.

## Budget

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# Two Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza attack

## OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Masked assailants ambushed an Israeli jeep shooting and killing two soldiers and wounding a third in the occupied Gaza Strip Saturday, the army and Arab reports said. Curfew restrictions were clamped on the Khan Yunis area immediately after the early morning shooting. Arab reports said a five-year-old girl was shot and wounded when troops opened fire on alleged curfew violators in Khan Yunis. They said the girl was struck in the ear by a bullet. Fourteen other Palestinian youths were wounded by gunfire or beatings in clashes after a second ambush on soldiers in Jabalya refugee camp in which none of the troops were injured, the reports said. The reported deaths were Israel's first casualties in Gaza since mid-December when the occupation authorities expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon. Israel has rejected international appeals to return the men home. The men were accused of fomenting violence as members of Muslim fundamentalist movements opposed to the Middle East peace talks. The military censor ordered a

delay in reporting Saturday's violence so that families of the dead could be notified.

The army said footprints from the ambush site led to Khan Yunis.

In Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, member of Ossam Brigade, a unit of the fundamentalist Hamas movement, shot rifles into the air and declared over loudspeakers that they had killed two Israeli soldiers. Crowds responded with cheering and Islamic chants.

Palestinian sources said soldiers broke into two schools in the Jabalya refugee camp in northern Gaza, shooting and wounding six students in a boys high school and beating several pupils at an elementary school.

The army said the ambush was at 5:30 a.m. (03:30 GMT) Saturday. They said gunfire was aimed at an army jeep at the edge of the Ganei Tal settlement near Khan Yunis.

"Two soldiers seated on the front seat of the jeep were immediately hit at the outset of the attack," and were killed, an army statement said.

It said that a third soldier in the back seat was lightly wounded and that he "opened fire and

charged towards them (the assailants) and ran to get help."

The assailants were not caught, an army official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with military regulations.

A curfew was clamped on Khan Yunis after the shooting, the army said. Arab reports said a five-year-old girl, Elham Bakr, was struck by a bullet in the ear when soldiers opened fire at alleged curfew violators. The army was checking.

Later an army outpost was ambushed by gunfire from a car in Jabalya refugee camp in northern Gaza. The troops opened fire but the assailants fled, apparently unarmed, the army said.

In ensuing clashes in and near Jabalya, 14 youths were injured by gunfire or beatings, Arab reports said.

The Gaza Strip is home to some 750,000 Palestinians and about 6,000 Jewish settlers. It has been a constant scene of Arab-Israeli violence and clashes have occurred on a daily basis since last month's expulsions.

The Israeli high court Thursday unanimously upheld the expulsion of the men, fuelling Arab anger and demands for U.N. sanctions against Israel.

# U.S. said to have put Israel on notice over expulsions

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher has warned Israel that the crisis over Palestinians expelled to Lebanon could jeopardize Middle East peace talks, the Washington Post reported Saturday.

Mr. Christopher sent a note to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday night, which U.S. Ambassador William H. Harrop delivered Friday morning. Mr. Christopher later talked with Mr. Rabin by telephone.

State Department sources in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that while nothing was decided, it was "a good and long conversation" and further conversations would likely follow this weekend.

Mr. Christopher is scheduled to meet Monday with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in New York.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters Friday that Mr. Christopher's message to Mr. Rabin was not "tough." But the Post quoted sources as saying that Mr. Rabin was put on notice that how he

deals with the evictees in the next few days would determine whether the U.S.-sponsored Mideast peace process can continue.

Israel also is facing possible U.N. sanctions for refusing to comply with a Security Council resolution calling for the repatriation of the men.

Mr. Christopher, the Post reported, also told Mr. Rabin that the Clinton administration does not want to be put in the position of having to veto a U.N. resolution imposing such sanctions.

"The message was that we want to help, but we can't unless Israel does something to help us," one source told the Post.

"Moreover, Christopher made clear that a token gesture won't do. It must be something sufficiently conciliatory to rebuff the pressure on the Arab states and their allies at the United Nations so the drive for sanctions can be sidetracked," that source said.

Prospects for a compromise emerged Friday when Israeli officials said they were reviewing the cases again and that more of the men may be allowed to return to Israel.

Israel has admitted that 16 of the 415 initial evictees were sent away in error; 14 have returned. Israel's envoy to the United Nations expressed doubt the Jewish state will be able to block an Arab effort to impose U.N. sanctions against it.

"I am a little bit worried about the Security Council," said Ambassador Gad Yaacobi about efforts by Israel and Washington to forestall sanctions.

"We are struggling here day by day and hour by hour until the Security Council will be convened," he told Israel Radio.

Mr. Yaacobi said: "It looks now that on Monday they'll start consultations and perhaps on Tuesday or even later the Security Council will be convened to discuss our matter."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday that Israel was looking for a solution to the standoff and acknowledged that the issue threatened the future of the peace talks.

Other Israeli officials said a possible compromise could be Mr. Rabin's promise to review

# Hamdoun calls for balanced U.S. stand towards Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoun, was quoted in an Iraqi newspaper Saturday as urging the new Clinton administration to take a balanced stance towards his country.

Mr. Hamdoun told the Al Iraq newspaper that "reasonable and balanced solutions for matters will satisfy all the parties, including Iraq."

He said there were indications of "a reasonable development" in U.S. policy towards Iraq but added that it was "too early to stress that opinion."

Mr. Hamdoun, who is in Baghdad for consultations, repeated Iraq's "preparedness to find peaceful solutions to all pending issues." He did not elaborate.

He repeated Iraq's call for "dialogue and negotiations" instead of force.

Iraq has long held that relations with the United States were soured by a "personal vendetta" by former President George Bush against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The country announced a unilateral "ceasefire" in the air exclusion zones patrolled by West-

ern jets in northern and southern Iraq on Jan. 19 in honour of the new president.

The ceasefire was declared after a series of clashes in the zones with U.S. jets patrolling the areas.

Iraq has since taken a conciliatory stand towards the United States, urging Mr. Clinton to change American policy towards the country.

Still, Mr. Hamdoun noted that "the last American aggression on Iraq provoked many reactions and questions regarding the illegality of this aggressive act."

It was an apparent reference to criticism by Russian hardliners of U.S. attacks on Iraqi missiles and suspected nuclear sites.

He repeated that Iraq considers the "no-fly" zones a violation of its sovereignty and an effort by the West to partition the country. Mr. Hamdoun also argued that they were not authorised by the United Nations.

The United States and its Western allies say they have authority under U.N. Security Council Resolution 688, which "condemns the repression" of Iraqi civilians, but others have challenged whether the resolu-

tion authorises enforcement measures.

This theme was echoed Saturday by Al Jumhuriyah newspaper which said the attacks on Iraq were "a sharp challenge to the United Nations."

It asked why resolutions against Iraq were being enforced while Israel was allowed to ignore a U.N. order to repatriate some 400 Palestinians it expelled to South Lebanon last month. It cited, too, the plight of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The United Nations, it said, "falls under the mercy of the strong ones and is a means to achieve their political goals."

The newspaper also railed against the U.N. Security Council decision earlier in the week to extend the embargo against Iraq for two more months.

The paper argued that the embargo, which prevents Iraq from exporting oil or buying anything but necessities, "is making deeper the economic crisis which the United States and the European countries are suffering."

It said that Iraq used to import goods valued at \$18 billion to \$25



UNUSUAL MEETING: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Labour Party parliamentarian Yael Dayan Friday display a copy of Ms. Dayan's book "My Father, His Daughter," which she presented to Mr. Arafat during a meeting in Tunis (AFP photo)

# Premier urges fairness, strict rules in civil service hirings

11-point directive issued to departments

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday urged departments concerned with filling positions in government offices to be fair and to offer jobs to those with the right qualifications in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules.

The prime minister demanded that the names of those selected to fill certain posts be published in the press so that any citizen feeling that he was unfairly treated can complain to the concerned authorities.

Sharif Zeid was speaking at a meeting in his office with the heads of the Audit Bureau, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Administration Control and Inspection Bureau (ACIB). He urged the officials to maintain close coordination and cooperation in all matters related to hiring people to civil service.

The meeting and the prime minister's instructions came on the eve of the start of filling posts in government offices as approved in the past week by the Council of Ministers.

Sharif Zeid stressed that the CSC should bear full responsibility in guaranteeing priority in appointments in line with rules and regulations. He said that the Audit Bureau and the ACIB as well as the Budget Department bear the responsibility of ensuring that all measures taken in relation to appointments follow the given regulations. These three departments, Sharif Zeid added, should report to the government about any violations.

(Continued on page 5)

## Reconciliation talks on hold — Hamas

AMMAN (R) — Hamas, the Islamic group at the centre of a crisis over Palestinian expellees, said Saturday its delegates had been waiting in Sudan for a week to resume reconciliation talks with the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) movement Fatah.

Mohammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, told Reuters in an interview: "The idea was that the negotiations should resolve our delegation is in Khartoum waiting for the Fatah delegation and still they haven't come."

He said the talks should have restarted a week ago, two weeks after the previous round ended on Jan. 4.

He opposes the decision by Fatah, the dominant PLO group, to allow Palestinians to join peace talks with Israel. It has attracted growing support in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip as the negotiations have failed to produce results.

But Israel's expulsion of more than 400 alleged supporters of Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad last month made the PLO suspend all peace talks and pushed Hamas and Fatah closer together.

Mr. Nazzal said Hamas was ready to join the PLO if it became more democratic and held elections inside and outside the occupied territories to choose a new Palestine National Council (PNC).

He said it was not true that Hamas was demanding 40 per cent of the seats in the PNC, as had been widely reported before the last round of Hamas-Fatah talks.

"The main condition is we want the PLO to be a democratic organisation... we are not insisting so much on specific proportions as on holding general elections," he said.

Mr. Nazzal added that Palestinian withdrawal from the peace talks was not a precondition for Hamas joining the PLO.

"We are talking about a fundamental solution of our position with the PLO and we believe that through democracy in the PLO we can decide about the (peace) settlement process," Mr. Nazzal said. "If they agree to hold gener-

# 40 deputies seek ban on any Jordanian blockade on Arabs

Officials lambast move as electioneering

By Nermeen Murad  
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Forty deputies of the 80-member Lower House of Parliament have demanded that Jordan adopt a special law banning the Kingdom from closing its borders with any neighbouring Arab state or imposing a sea, land or air trade embargo on Arab countries. The demand, which came in a letter to the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, was an obvious reference to the Kingdom's compliance with internationally imposed embargo against Iraq.

In the one-page statement, which was sent to the Jordan Times Saturday, the deputies said that this law would be in response to the democratic will of the Arab peoples which have faith in Arab unity and reject "colonialist designs to divide the Arab World."

Government sources who spoke on condition of anonymity lashed out at the move by the deputies describing it as an effort

to upstage the government and an attempt to gain public sympathy ahead of this year's national elections.

"It is very obvious that this manoeuvre is for electioneering purposes," one government source told the Jordan Times, adding that this step can only be seen as "an obvious game."

The source explained that since the deputies are aware of how far Jordan had gone to support the Iraqi people during the Gulf crisis and war and how the Kingdom continued to be an "open window between Iraq and the rest of the world."

"Any attempt by them to upset the balance now can only do disservice to both Iraq's interest and those of the Kingdom especially under the current international circumstances," the source added.

"Jordan has proved that it is more Arab than any other Arab state and there is no need for any people to behave as if he can do any more than the government

had done," said another official.

"This move is designed to benefit individuals who want to register on their political record that they had supported the Iraqi people," another well-placed official said, adding that the proposed law can go no farther than stroking the emotions of the Jordanian people.

The 40 signatories, most of whom are Islamists or members of the leftist coalition bloc in the House, cited the first article of the Constitution, which stipulates that the Kingdom is "an independent sovereign Arab state" as the basis for their argument against any negative measure against Arab countries.

In the preamble to their proposed one-paragraph law, the signatories said that this law would preempt any division of the Arab World and maintain a state of Arab unity in which the Arab peoples have full faith.

The text of the special law, as

(Continued on page 5)

## Kuwait sentences woman to death

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A Kuwaiti court sentenced a woman to death Saturday for allegedly collaborating with Iraq during its occupation of the emirate, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said.

A state security court convicted the Kuwaiti woman, named only as Seham A., of providing Iraqi authorities with assistance which led to the arrest of members of the Kuwaiti armed forces.

She was also found guilty of "taking measures to weaken the spirits of the citizens," during the seven-month occupation, KUNA said. The agency gave no more details.

Under amendments introduced in August 1991, people convicted in state security cases for the first time can appeal to a special court.

Twenty-nine people sentenced to death for collaboration in 1991 later had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. More than 100 other people received jail terms after being convicted of collaboration.

An appeals court Saturday upheld a prison sentence handed to a journalist for criticising Islamic fundamentalism and women who wear the veil while driving cars.

Also Saturday, a lower court slapped a fine on the emirate's only independent newspaper for "insulting" a former minister.

Fuad Al Hasbem wrote in November 1991 that women wearing the facial covering looked like beasts and when on the road could scare other drivers.

A civil court sentenced him to three months in prison in May. After the appeal court decision Saturday, Mr. Hasbem said he would pay bail of 500 dinars (\$1,750) to suspend the sentence and keep him out of jail.

Mr. Hasbem told the Associated Press he respected the court decision but that what happened would not change his strong beliefs against Islamic extremism.

"I will write whatever my conscience tells me I should... if we

start to change our convictions, it would be better for us to put our pens down and go home," he explained.

The columnist, whose life was threatened by fundamentalists for his harsh criticism of them, said he feared that the sentence would discourage other writers from taking up these topics.

He wrote the articles for Sawt Al Kuwait, a government newspaper published during the occupation and closed in November.

With 19 Islamic deputies in the emirate's first post-war parliament, fundamentalists are gaining ground and demanding the implementation of Islamic law.

The parliament and government have yet to settle a controversy that began when the dean of Kuwait University's medical school banned women students wearing the veil from classes and exams.

The same civil court decided

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(Continued on page 3)



# Evictees challenge U.S. to use veto to block sanctions

Abdul Meguid to visit expellee camp

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinian expellees Saturday urged the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel and challenged the U.S. to use its veto power to block them.

The 396 evictees spent their 44th night in exile shivering in their ice-covered tents at a makeshift camp in South Lebanon.

"The Security Council must put an end to Israel's violation of the resolutions of the international community," said Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, the leader of the group.

"We call on the security council to meet and impose tough sanctions to force Israel to implement Resolution 799."

Resolution 799, issued on Dec. 18, one day after Israel banished the men from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, condemns the expulsion and demands the immediate return of the evictees.

"I challenge America to use its veto power because if it does then its credibility would fall for ever," Dr. Rantisi said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren

Christopher spoke by telephone Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in a new attempt to defuse the row over the expulsions.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the two spoke after U.S. Ambassador William Harrop delivered a message from Mr. Christopher to Mr. Rabin. He said the two had a "good discussion" but gave no further details.

Meanwhile, Mr. Christopher was trying to head off a debate in the Security Council on an Arab-drafted resolution to impose sanctions against Israel.

The Beirut newspaper Al Nahar, quoting diplomatic sources, said Washington has asked Lebanon to wait several days to give diplomacy a chance to persuade Israel to take back the exiles.

Lebanon, saying the expulsion violated its sovereignty, has refused to take the evictees into its territory and barred all aid to them.

Mr. Rantisi said Washington was trying to find a solution to "get Israel off the hook."

He reiterated that the evictees would never appeal against their expulsion order.

The Israeli high court ruled on Thursday the individual expulsions were legal but each evictee could attend an appeal.

An Israeli officer was waiting to hear any appeals at an Israeli position in Zemraya, two kilometres south of the camp and the tip of Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"I feel sorry for the Israeli officer. He will wait for a long time because we will never appeal... we will only accept the implementation of Resolution 799," Dr. Rantisi said.

Lebanese troops tightened their noose north of the area in an attempt to cut off supplies being smuggled on mules to the evictees' encampment.

The soldiers arrested two villagers Friday trying to smuggle in food. But the exiles then received bread and some canned food overnight.

In Cairo, the Arab League secretary-general said Saturday he will visit the Palestinians at their camp as a symbol of Arab anger



Two Israeli military vehicles take up positions in the Jewish state's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

over their plight.

Secretary-general Esmat Abdul Meguid said he wants to assure the evictees of the Arab League's solidarity and "great concern with this matter, which has top priority."

He told a news conference that he was coordinating arrangements for the visit with the Lebanese government. That indicates he will transit Lebanon en route to Marj Al Zohoor.

Lebanon previously banned contact with or aid to the group through its territory. The Beirut government said it would not allow Lebanon to become a dumping ground for Palestinians expelled by Israel from the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

After the news conference, Dr. Abdul Meguid, a former Egyptian foreign minister, met with Abdul Rahman Al Solh, Lebanon's ambassador to Cairo, who told reporters they discussed the visit.

"The area where the evictees are is occupied Lebanese territory. Our visit will show our complete solidarity with the Lebanese government and our Palestinian brothers," Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

He said the evictees "have displayed great determination and steadfastness, an honour for them and the whole Arab World."

# Ghali studies imposing U.N. plans on Sahara

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. secretary-general is considering having the United Nations impose its own terms for holding a referendum in the Western Sahara conflict, saying that negotiations with Morocco and Saharan leaders had proved intractable.

The Sahara's Polisario Front, seeking independence for the former Spanish colony, waged a 15-year-long guerrilla war with Morocco, which controls the sparsely-populated territory, rich in phosphates. A ceasefire has been in effect since mid-1991.

In a report to the Security Council, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali offered three options, the most probable being the "immediate implementation" of a settlement plan based on voting criteria, set out by the United Nations in December 1991, which favour Morocco.

But Security Council sources were sceptical at quick action and said the most likely result would be to fix a deadline for the United Nations for organising a referendum to 1993 and then have another round of discussions on contentious issues, either before or after the hot summer months.

The U.N. plan would broaden registration rolls, thereby angering the Sahara's Polisario Front, which has accused Morocco of attempting to pad the list of eligible voters.

It would permit voting on a referendum to determine Saharan independence or union with Morocco to include anyone born of a Saharan father who was born in the territory.

Other criteria would include Saharan tribe members who lived in the territory for six consecutive years, or intermittently for 12 years, before Dec. 1, 1974.

"This may mean that the implementation would have to proceed without cooperation of one of the parties," Dr. Ghali said, referring to the Polisario Front.

But the U.N. chief said the Security Council would have to make the decision. He said other options were adopting alternative approaches not based on the current plan or more negotiations which he thought were unlikely to succeed.

Exasperated at the impasse, Dr. Ghali said it was regrettable that "the parties failed to prove equal to the test of making an effort to reach a relatively straightforward compromise" on even agreeing on participants to a meeting with U.N. officials.

The United Nations currently has a small peacekeeping mission in the Western Sahara, called the Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. It has 228 military observers, including 28 from the United States, far below its authorised strength.

# Iraq-Turkey ties sour on sanctions, water

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq lashed out at Turkey Saturday accusing its northern neighbour of playing the role of a U.S. lackey in the region and pirating its water share from the Euphrates River.

Iraqi officials and state media have stepped up attacks on Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, both blamed to be directly behind "the aggressive Turkish role" against Iraq.

Babel, the influential newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, branded Mr. Demirel in a front-page article Thursday "the Turkish dog tramping" Gulf states for financial assistance.

It was the first direct personal assault on Mr. Demirel whose attitudes to Iraq were so far viewed here as moderate in comparison to President Turgut Ozal's supportive role of actions by the United States and its Western allies in Iraq.

"It seems the Turkey of Ozal and Demirel continues to harvest the fruits of its participation in the aggression on Iraq more than two years ago," said the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Oadisiyah in a commentary Saturday.

U.S. bases in southern Turkey

were used during the 1991 Gulf war to bomb targets in Iraq following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Turkey currently plays host to allied aircraft policing the northern "no-fly" zone in Iraq.

"Ozal has proved to be a petty agent, voicing (former U.S. President George) Bush's anti-Iraq statements," the paper said.

The building of a Turkish dam on the Euphrates River is also depicted in Iraq as a hostile act by Turkey.

Saturday newspapers published a statement by Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Abdul Wahab Mahmoud al Sabbagh in which he said the building of the dam was a hostile act.

"If (the dam) is a violation of the international law and Iraq's rights to the Euphrates waters," the newspapers quoted Mr. Sabbagh as saying.

Turkey said Thursday it would not use its control of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers as a weapon against Syria and Iraq.

"The project would harm the quality of water flowing into Iraq. Salinity would increase and arable lands in Iraq's Euphrates Valley would be harmed," Mr. Sabbagh said.

# Iraqi refugees recount voyage of hell to Sweden

VISBY, Sweden (R) — Iraqi asylumseekers smuggled into Sweden for thousands of dollars by sea since World War II and has led to calls in Sweden for a tightening of the country's liberal asylum laws.

Swedish officials suspect a Russian mafia is behind the lucrative trade in human cargo that runs from Iraq and Iran through Moscow to the Baltic states, and on to Gotland.

Ali and Mohammad bought their boat tickets for \$2,500 each from a contact they met at a McDonald's hamburger restaurant in Moscow.

Speaking at a hotel in the Gotland capital Visby, the refugees are staying, they said, their days aboard the freighter were filled with the sounds of screaming children and hysterical mothers and the stench of vomit and urine in the stale air.

"We had only one toilet and 10 to 12 people queued up at a time," said Ali, who is from Baghdad.

Jan Johansson, the Swedish coastguard's regional inspector for Gotland, said the refugees had only about 0.5 square metre of space each aboard the freighter, which had no safety equipment and little food or medicine.

It was the largest single number of refugees to arrive on Gotland by sea since World War II and has led to calls in Sweden for a tightening of the country's liberal asylum laws.

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# American troops sweep bandit base in Somalia

ARGOI, Somalia (AP) — Hundreds of American soldiers swept into this important crossroads town at dusk Saturday in a surprise, airborne raid on what was described as a virulent nest of bandits.

"We're going to lay down a big footprint," said Major Marty Culp before some 700 American soldiers descended on the town.

A big footprint it was.

A squadron of helicopters landed most of the soldiers on the eastern outskirts of the dusty, Ramshackle town 70 kilometres west of Mogadishu an hour before sundown.

The units formed up and began a "brigade sweep" through the sprawling "community" of 40,000 people, moving on foot in squads of 12 and 10 intimidating armoured personnel carriers.

They were looking for weapons and "technicals," the pickup trucks and other vehicles that bandits and militias arm with machine-guns and light artillery and use as war wagons. But they were not planning house-by-house searches.

Helicopter gunships swooped overhead, providing lethal air cover for the troops below.

No organised resistance was expected, but Maj. Culp said some of the bandits being forced out of an easy, lucrative lifestyle might be inclined to take a few potshots at the American troops.

It was one of the largest operations staged by U.S. troops since American Marines first landed in Mogadishu, the capital, on Dec. 9.

Gen. Johnston, in an interview with the Associated Press, revealed for the first time U.S. military plans once the United Nations takes over and American combat forces are withdrawn.

He said more than 1,000 logistics troops would remain to help the U.N. through a transition period. The U.S. also would leave a quick reaction force of less than 2,000 combat Marines offshore for any emergencies.

"Are we ready for the turnover?" The answer is most certainly, "yes," said Gen. Johnston, who commands 24,000 American troops in Somalia and another 33,000 from the international coalition.

If the U.N. resolution to take control passes, this would free up hundreds more American combat troops to return home later in February and in March. Gen. Johnston said the bulk of the more than 1,000 army and Marine troops leaving over the next 10 days are logistics forces.

There are currently 3,600 U.S. logistics troops in Somalia, including engineers working on road networks, he said.

The first combat troops to leave Somalia were a battalion of 850 Marines who departed earlier this month.

Gen. Johnston also alluded to recent remarks by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali that the transition to U.N. control in Somalia could take up to six months.

"There's no reason for them to agonise over this resolution and not vote on it," he said.

While Dr. Ghali reportedly wants a fully secured Somalia before the U.N. takes over, Gen. Johnston said the U.S.-led forces had gone beyond their initial mission of establishing security for the delivery of food to outlying areas.

Also on Saturday, U.S. Marines and Boswana soldiers swept through the arms bazaar in Mogadishu, confiscating dozens of rifles and other weapons.

It was the second raid in less than three weeks on the bazaar in the sprawling Bakara market, which for years has been the centre of the arms trade in the capital.

# Turkey, UAE call for end to Bosnia arms embargo

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have reiterated their support for an end to the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims so that they can defend themselves in a civil war against Serbian forces.

A joint statement issued after the visit of Turkey's Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel to the UAE, his last stop on a tour of five Gulf Arab states, said collective military action should be used if the Geneva peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina failed.

The statement carried by the official Emirates News Agency (WAM) said the two sides also called for Israel to abide by a United Nations resolution and allow the return of 400 expelled Palestinians trapped in Lebanon.

"Israel's failure to implement Resolution 799 should be considered an obstacle to Middle East peace," it said.

Mr. Demirel met UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan Friday in Abu Dhabi.

The two countries signed an agreement to eliminate double-taxation during the visit, which included Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Mr. Demirel's wanted to strengthen economic ties during his visit.

This may have included military sales to the five oil-rich countries, which along with Oman form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Officials in Turkey say Ankara is amassing a \$3 billion defence fund from Gulf Arab states appreciative of its help in ousting Iraq from Kuwait in 1991.

There was no official confirmation of a UAE contribution to the fund after Friday's talks.

The officials said Turkey would try to sell military equipment including fighter jets and

armoured vehicles to Gulf states.

The officials said Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait have pledged \$1 billion each to Turkey, which did not contribute troops to the Gulf war but allowed American planes to bomb Iraq from southern Turkish bases and switched off a dual pipeline carrying Iraqi oil exports.

"The UAE and Turkey asserted the importance of maintaining peace and security in the Gulf region and the importance of the full commitment of the Iraqi regime to all U.N. Security Council resolutions related to the Gulf crisis," said the joint communiqué issued late Friday.

Mr. Demirel's tour was viewed by officials here as aimed at further strengthening Turkish relationship with the Gulf states.

During the meeting Sheikh Zayed hailed the strong ties between the two countries and

praised Turkey's stance in support of Arab and Muslim causes.

"Both the UAE and Turkey call for lifting the arms ban imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina to enable the republic to defend itself against Serbian forces," said the communiqué.

The communiqué also called for implementing U.N. resolutions that ask Serbia to cease hostilities against Muslims in Bosnia.

Sheikh Zayed has continuously called for the lifting of the ban while Mr. Demirel has been affirming the strong historic, religious and cultural relationship between Turkey and Bosnia.

Earlier, Turkey and Bahrain urged the international community to take unspecified measures to force Serbia and its ally Montenegro to fall in line with United Nations demands on ending the bloodshed in Bosnia.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.N. renews Lebanon force mandate

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council has unanimously approved a six-month renewal of the mandate of the U.N. Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon (UNTSF), until July 31, 1993. But a statement which traditionally accompanies such renewals made no mention of Israel's expulsion of some 400 Palestinians to southern Lebanon last month, although Lebanon had urged such a reference. A council source said this was opposed by a number of members on grounds that the usual routine for renewing UNTSF should be followed. Lebanon had condemned Israel's expulsion of the Palestinians to Lebanese territory as a violation of its sovereignty and has refused to accept the evictees, who remain trapped between Israeli and Lebanese lines. UNTSF, comprising about 5,250 troops from 10 countries, was sent to southern Lebanon in 1978 to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli troops who had invaded the region and to try to help restore the authority of the Beirut government over the area. Israel and its allies of the South Lebanon Army control a 15 kilometre-deep so-called "security zone" inside Lebanon to prevent guerrilla attacks against northern Israel. After the resolution renewing the UNTSF mandate was adopted, Security Council President Yoshio Hatano of Japan read the usual statement reaffirming the council's commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity and expressing concern over continuing violence, but there was no mention of the evictees.

### Photos of gunmen found with Cypriot suspect

BEIRUT (AP) — Military investigators have found pictures of gunmen in military fatigues with a Cypriot lawyer who was arrested at Beirut airport with explosives, strapped to his waist, military officials said Saturday. The official, who insisted on anonymity, said Nicholas Syllouris, 24, of Nicosia, Cyprus, appeared in one of the four pictures with a group of gunmen. The Cypriot suspect, the official said, also was dressed in military fatigues. He said investigators were trying to establish the identities of the gunmen, Mr. Syllouris' connection with them and where the pictures were taken. Lebanon's penal code permits the military to detain a suspect for an indefinite period to complete interrogations before charging him. If charged, he must appear before a military tribunal. Mr. Syllouris was arrested at Beirut airport Tuesday, minutes before boarding a plane bound for Laraca, Cyprus. Authorities said he had a stick of dynamite and 100 grammes of the powerful Semtex explosive strapped to his waist. More dynamite was found in his luggage, although there was no detonator, they said. In Nicosia, Cypriot authorities said Friday three Arab students were being questioned in connection with the case. Their names have not been disclosed. The Lebanese daily Al Hayat said two were Palestinians and one a Yemeni.

### Israel arrests Reuter cameraman

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli soldiers have detained a Reuter television cameraman while he was filming clashes between troops and Palestinians outside a military base in the occupied Gaza Strip. Cameraman Marwan Al Ghul was arrested Thursday outside the base at Khan Younis, scene of frequent clashes between soldiers and stone-throwing youths. An army spokesman said: "He was arrested on suspicion of filming military bases illegally. The investigation will be completed and we'll decide what to do afterwards." Reuter television representatives said they had regularly filmed at the same spot and never been told it was forbidden.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Reves d'enfants  
17:40 ..... La Piste de Xagatan  
19:15 ..... Le Journal de l'histoire  
20:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Who's the Boss  
21:10 ..... National Geographic  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... Law And Order

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:07 ..... Fajr  
06:30 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:49 ..... Dhuhr  
14:46 ..... 'Asr  
17:12 ..... Maghrib  
18:30 ..... Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedich Tel. 810740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 627285  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terminus Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811355  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623024, 654932  
Church of the Nazareth tel. 675691

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 4/12  
Aqaba ..... 12/21  
Djessra ..... 2/14  
Jordan Valley ..... 10/20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 66 per cent.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Farouk Noor ..... 786680  
Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam ..... 894184  
Dr. Jameel Marag ..... 786149  
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi ..... 743500  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637053  
Nairouth pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmoussa pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 876233  
Fifth circle pharmacy ..... 613141  
Samer pharmacy ..... 661898  
Tahar pharmacy ..... 621356  
Yafar pharmacy ..... 777312  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637053  
Al Azzoni pharmacy ..... 688681  
Hisham pharmacy ..... 771557

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence translocate  
Rescue ..... 630241  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Palestine, Smeisani ..... 664174  
Public Security Department ..... 630231  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 664646  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (director assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Regain ..... 623101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Abdullah Television ..... 771111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

#### HOSPITALS

Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RU Flight Information ..... 08-33200  
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport ..... 08-33200

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:20 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:25 ..... Amman (RJ)  
09:45 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:15 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)

##### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:20 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
08:45 ..... Amman (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:25 ..... Amman (RJ)  
09:45 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:15 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)

#### DEPARTURES

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Amman (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
07:15 ..... Amman (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
07:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
08:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)

##### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Amman (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
07:15 ..... Amman (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
07:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
08:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)

#### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700/320  
Banana ..... 700/700  
Banana (Mekassar) ..... 640/640  
Beans ..... 630/630  
Cabbage ..... 160/100  
Carrot ..... 230/180  
Cauliflower ..... 210/140  
Couscous (large) ..... 150/180  
Couscous (small) ..... 300/250  
Eggplant ..... 440/380  
Garlic ..... 650/550  
Grapefruit ..... 180/120  
Lemon ..... 270/200  
Marrow (large) ..... 200/150  
Marrow (small) ..... 440/380  
Mint ..... 80  
Onion (dry) ..... 210/120  
Onion (green) ..... 240/180  
Orange ..... 400/160  
Pepper (hot) ..... 180/120  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 180/120  
Pineapple ..... 250/200  
Tomato ..... 130/60  
Spinach ..... 240/180

هكذا في الامم



## House to discuss civil service posts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will Sunday discuss civil service appointments made from the beginning of 1990 through the end of 1992 in a meeting chaired by House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

On Sunday, the House is also expected to hear replies by the government to several deputies' queries presented by Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi to the minister of planning on the technical assistance offered to the private sector.

Early Sunday, the House Agriculture Committee will meet with Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh to discuss issues of concern to the agricultural sector. The meeting will be attended by directors of the ministry's departments.

The House Judiciary Committee held a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Deputy Saleem Zoubi and approved the general amnesty law as it was referred to it by the government. The Judiciary Committee also discussed the municipalities draft law which deals with municipal elections and the independence and annexation of municipalities.

On Saturday the Upper House of Parliament Judiciary Committee also met. The committee, chaired by House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, approved the press and publications law after introducing several amendments to it.

Director of Senate Affairs Naeem Atiyat said the Judiciary Committee's discussions and amendments focused on articles dealing with the definition of journalist, secrecy of information, and punitive measures as well as grammatical mistakes in the wording of the law.

Some articles which were drafted by the government but later deleted by the Lower House were re-introduced by the Senate, Mr. Atiyat said. He added that the committee postponed discussion of a draft law on the illegal acquisition of wealth until next Monday.

## Bataineh to attend Arabisation meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet approved Saturday Jordan's participation in the meetings of a conference on "Arabising the Education of Medicine and Medical Sciences in the Arab World" which will be held in Bahrain from Feb. 16-18. Jordan's delegation to the conference will be headed by Health Minister Aref Bataineh. The Cabinet also approved a recommendation by Social Development Minister Amin Mashaqbeh naming Hamdi Al Tabaa, Haidar Issa Murad and Hassan Al Mifleh as representatives of the private sector on the board of directors of the National Aid Fund (NAF) for two-year terms.

## Jordan to attend Afro-Asian meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in a meeting by justice ministers from the Afro-Asian Group (AAG) due to open in Kampala, Uganda Sunday. The 10-day conference will focus on topics of concern to Afro-Asian countries, particularly in the legal and judiciary fields, according to Justice Minister Yusef Mbeideen, head of the Jordanian delegation to the meeting.

The Jordanian delegation will submit a detailed memorandum to the meeting, outlining the democratic process in the Kingdom, the minister said.

The question of the Palestinian expellees and the general situation in the Israeli occupied Arab lands will be among the topics at the meeting, Mr. Mbeideen said. He said legal aspects pertaining to the continuing sanctions on Iraq as well as other legal matters of interest to Arab and African nations will be discussed.

Mr. Mbeideen added that the Jordanian delegation also plans to raise the issue of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Forty-two nations, will be represented at the conference.



## Prince Abdullah turns 31

HIS ROYAL Highness Prince Abdullah celebrated his 31st birthday Saturday. Prince Abdullah, the eldest son of His Majesty King Hussein, received his basic education at the Islamic Scientific College in Amman. He then studied in the U.S. and at Britain's Sandhurst Military College. After graduation, he joined the Jordan Armed Forces where he continues to serve.

## Seminar re-examines land use

AMMAN (Petra) — The absence of controls on population growth and rapid urban development and the lack of balance between natural resources demand a re-examination of Jordan's traditional system of land use, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat said Saturday upon opening a two-day seminar.

Dr. Tubeishat said the Kingdom must introduce measures to control air and water pollution, stem desertification, and check the encroachment of buildings on agricultural lands.

He said the ministry plans to chart a clear policy to determine the various uses of land in different parts of the country.

Through the two days of workshops and training seminars, the ministry hopes to recruit experienced individuals in city organisation and planning in order to develop an appropriate land use policy, Dr. Tubeishat said.

He said orthodox methods exercised on the land have re-



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat (centre), presides over land use seminar Saturday (Petra photo)

viewed at the seminar, which is being attended by a number of directors of departments affiliated with the ministry in various provinces as well as specialists from other government departments and universities.

One such working papers discussed during the opening session focused on regional development, with particular attention to the Karak and Tafleh regions. Seven working papers will be

## Socialist Party legalised

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior has granted legal status to the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party (JSDP), bringing to 11 the number of political parties in the Kingdom.

According to an announcement by Interior Minister Jawdat Sbouh, the party will be operating within the framework of the Jordanian Constitution, the Political Parties Law and the principles of the National Charter.

JSDP Chairman Issa Mdanat said the legalisation of the JSDP was part of Jordan's on-going democratisation process, which is essential in ensuring political pluralism.

In remarks about the establishment of the new party Mr. Mdanat said the legalisation of parties was a first step to enabling the masses to shoulder their responsibilities, to participate in the making of a democracy and take part in the decision-making process on matters of national concern.

Mr. Mdanat said he will address a press conference Monday to outline the JSDP's programmes.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Ensour leaves for Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour left Amman for Sanaa Saturday as head of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Jordanian-Yemeni Joint Committee. Dr. Ensour will also attend on Monday the opening ceremony of the Jordanian Industrial Fair where more than 30 Jordanian industrial firms are participating.

#### Charitable societies number 59 in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — The number of charitable societies in the Zarqa governorate has reached 59, which claim a total membership of about 5,325 citizens, according to the president of the Zarqa Governorate Voluntary Societies Federation, Mohammad Salah. Mr. Salah said 13 rural societies are operating in the governorate while there are 11 social service centres run by charitable societies offering services to Zarqa residents. In 1992, he said, only two new charitable societies registered with the federation. Mr. Salah said the number of societies offering vocational training to citizens stands at 30, of which 29 are for women.

#### Students to get acquainted with Irbid sites

IRBID (Petra) — The Tourism Activation Office in Irbid has prepared, in cooperation with the Antiquities Office in the city, a plan to acquaint school students with tourist and archaeological sites in Irbid governorate. The plan will include lectures, seminars and film on the most significant sites in the governorate.

#### Medical book go on display

AMMAN (Petra) — A medical book exhibition was opened Saturday at Al Bashir Hospital. The five-day exhibition, organised in cooperation with Al Bashir Publishing House, includes the most recent specialised medical and scientific books, as well as cultural and religious books.

## Hamdoun calls for balanced approach

(Continued from page 1)

billion a year. Oil exports were valued at about \$25 billion, it said.

A U.N. weapons expert said meanwhile he did not think Iraq was softening on its refusal to name foreign suppliers of its nuclear weapons programme despite cooperating with inspectors on their latest mission.

Identifying the suppliers is vital to the success of U.N. efforts to cripple Iraq's nuclear weapons programme permanently.

"Things are staying the same way they were in December," said Maurizio Zifferero, a top United Nations weapons inspector, when asked whether he believed Iraq was now any more willing to hand over the list.

U.N. officials dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction say the incomplete list of

suppliers remains a major obstacle to ensuring that Iraq does not rebuild the capability to produce a nuclear bomb.

Mr. Zifferero, winding up his last inspection of known and suspected nuclear sites before leaving for Bahrain Sunday, said U.N. officials were expected to submit a detailed list of questions to Iraq on the suppliers within the next few weeks.

"We are preparing these questions ... and then we shall see what the answer is going to be," he told reporters.

Iraq has so far refused to provide the list of names saying to identify people connected with its nuclear programme would put them at risk of being killed by Israel.

It maintains that the U.N. already has names of 90 per cent

of the suppliers, most obtained from foreign governments.

Mr. Zifferero, who said he had received good cooperation from the Iraqis on what had been a week of routine inspections, said another stumbling block was Baghdad's resistance to long-term monitoring of its weapons programmes.

He said any obstacles to long-term monitoring would create problems for the U.N. disarmament programme. "It's important for us," he added.

Mr. Zifferero said his inspectors visited sites that previously had been inspected, but refused to name them.

"It was completely satisfactory," he said. "The Iraqis have provided all the necessary assistance and have been efficient and effective."

Mr. Zifferero said teams would continue tours here.

"There is still a lot of work to do," he said. "We are going to be in Iraq for quite some time."

## Kuwait sentences woman to death

(Continued from page 1)

Saturday that the independent daily Al Qabas should pay former Information Minister Badr Al Yacoub, 5,000 (\$17,500) as compensation for "insulting" articles written by one of the paper's columnists, Abdul Latif Al Duaij.

Mr. Duaij described Mr. Yacoub in articles he wrote early last year as a Kuwaiti version of

dinars (\$245) each, in addition to the fine levied against the newspaper itself.

"We consider anything but closing down the newspaper a victory," Mr. Saqr said.

Censorship on the press, in place since 1986, was lifted in January. But publication laws still give the information minister the right to close newspapers as a

penalty for hurting the country's security or its relations with friendly nations.

## Earthquake monitoring proposed

AMMAN (Petra) — Although earthquakes are rare in Jordan, the establishment of a national network to monitor tremors is necessary, said Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Srour.

In his address at the opening of a meeting to discuss earthquakes, the minister said that when earthquakes do occur they cause vast destruction and loss of human life as is evident from the remains of previous civilisations in this part of the world.

Jordan has a seismological centre operated by the Natural Resources Authority, and the University of Jordan has a centre which monitors earth tremors.

Jordan should conduct comprehensive studies on earthquakes and their causes to minimise their destructive effects on the country and follow the example of other countries in this regard, Mr. Srour said.

He said precautionary measures taken by Japan, which recently witnessed an earthquake registering 6 on the Richter scale, caused little damage and took the lives of only two persons.

By comparison, Egypt experienced an earthquake that registered 5.3 on the Richter scale in 1992 which resulted in 500 deaths and wide-scale devastation, the minister said. President of Jordan



In Amman, participants at the opening meeting of a seminar on earthquakes presented papers on Jordan's geological structure (Petra photo)

Engineers Association (JEA) Hosni Abu Ghida, and engineer Abu Taha from the JEA board addressed the opening meeting

and reviewed measures to reduce the effects of earthquakes. Several working papers presented dealt with the geological structure of Jordan, studies on previous earthquakes and plans to face the dangers of further tremors.

## Jordan, Canada inaugurate business council

AMMAN (J.T.) — At the inaugural meeting of the Jordan-Canada Business Council (JCBC) Saturday, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Suheimat welcomed the Canadian guests and outlined some of the more important economic achievements Jordan registered in the last year.

Mr. Suheimat said that at the end of 1992 the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) scored a real growth rate of over 11 per cent. The growth in the commodity producing sectors, he said, accounted for over 16 per cent of the increase in the GDP.

With reference to the budget, Mr. Suheimat said 1992 was the first year where internal revenues covered recurrent expenditures.

Expected revenues for 1993, which should increase by 10 per cent over the previous year, are estimated to cover part of the development expenditures in addition to the recurring expenditures for the year, he added.

The fiscal stability of Jordan has been enhanced by efforts to remedy structural imbalances and reduce the inflation rate, Mr. Suheimat said. "In fact, the cost of living index declined to 4 per cent in

1992 from a previous level of 8.2 per cent," the Deputy Premier said.

He stated there is renewed optimism in the private sector. "A 16 per cent increase in credit extended by banks in 1992 together with a marked increase in newly-registered companies indicate the increasing level of investments in Jordan," said Mr. Suheimat.

By November 1992, the total capital for industrial companies reached JD 90 million, up from JD 47 million for the whole of 1991, he reported.

The volume of loans provided by the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) for the purchase of capital equipment increased by 56 per cent, he said.

The Deputy Premier said the activity of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during 1992 was unprecedented in terms of the volume and value of trading. He said the number of shares traded rocketed to a new record of 35.6 million shares with a total value of JD 909.6 million; that is an increase of 116.7 per cent and 183.9 per cent in the volume of shares and their value respectively, over their levels in 1991.

The shares price index increased by 29.9 per cent,



Jordanian and Canadian officials Saturday inaugurated a joint business council (Petra photo)

whereas the primary market witnessed a tangible rise in issuing new shares to the value of JD 54.7 million or by 154.9 per cent over 1991, the Deputy Premier added.

Mr. Suheimat highlighted Jordan's political and social stability, its strategic location

and "most importantly the human resources ... that for years have been a main source of national income."

He expressed confidence that Canada and Jordan will undoubtedly form long and lasting cooperation in all fields.

## Dome gets gold-gilded coating

AMMAN (J.T.) — The copper sheets on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem are being replaced with gold-gilded copper sheets, at a cost of nearly \$6.5 million, according to sources at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and reports from the Israeli-occupied Holy City.

Sources in Jerusalem said the Irish firm Mivan, contracted by the ministry to carry out the restoration work on the Dome in 540 days, has subcontracted the gold-gilding process to another firm with the approval of a supervisory committee from the ministry.

The project was called for following the appearance of cracks in the old sheets, causing continued rain water leakage into the holy shrines, the sources said.

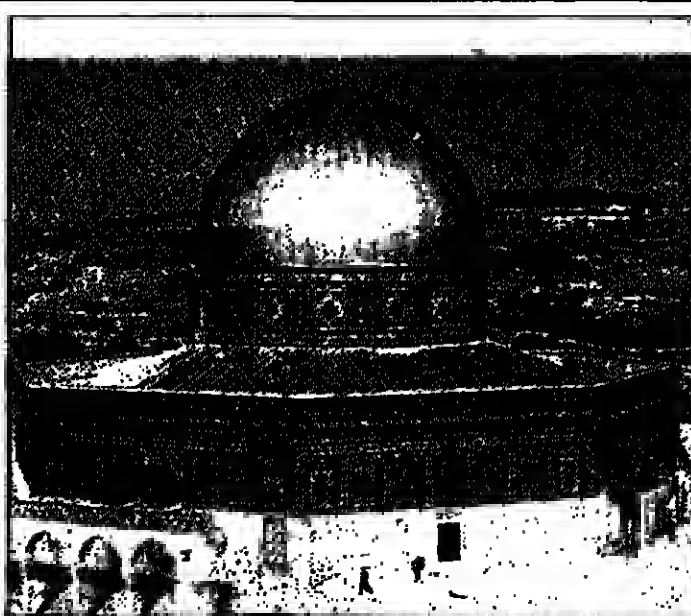
Reports quoted Isam Awwad, head of the local supervising committee, as saying that work on replacing the sheets started at the beginning of January and was to take 12 months to complete.

Mr. Awwad said the use of gold-gilded copper sheets was far better than copper alone, which tends to oxidise over time and requires continual maintenance. Mivan will also install an early-warning fire system, according to the terms of the agreement.

In the past week, Awqaf Minister Izzeddin Al Tamimi presided over a meeting to review the progress of the work.

Last June, Jordan announced its commitment to cover the cost of restoring the Dome of the Rock.

His Majesty King Hussein also announced a personal contribution of \$8.24 million. The overall cost of the restoration project is around \$10 million.



The Dome of the Rock in occupied Jerusalem (file photo)

## RSS hosts water meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will Sunday host a workshop on water and irrigation in the Jordan Valley.

Water resources in the valley and farming problems will be the major focus of the event, according to the RSS. The society said representatives of various government and private organisations concerned with agriculture in the Jordan Valley will take part in the meeting.

The Jordan Valley is normally irrigated in the summer season with water from the King Talal Dam, which has a 110 million cubic metre capacity. The Ministry of Water and Irrigation estimates that surface water, which accumulates from running water in valleys, springs and floods, averages about 692 million cubic metres.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar said in a speech in Amman last December that 31 per cent of the available surface water came from the Yarmouk River and other sources from the wadis. Mr. Kassar said the 1992 winter revealed the lack of sufficient dams in the country.

## Fuad Aclé passes away

AMMAN — Mr. Fuad Aclé a Jordanian expatriate who has been living in Bolivia - South America and the United States died last Thursday at the age of 53. The late Mr. Aclé returned to Amman four months ago and died Thursday 28, 1993.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Dharna, a Village from South Jordan" displaying photos and other items on the village at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Medical book exhibition at Al Bashir Hospital.

### SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "The Crisis of Development in the Arab World" at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

### FILMS

- ★ Italian Film Week: "Italia-Germania 4 a 3" (Italy-Germany: Four to Three) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.
- ★ Clint Eastwood's 1986 film "Heartbreak Ridge" at 5 p.m. at the American Centre (30 min., rated R)

### LUTE CONCERT

- ★ Lute concert by Bill Badley and Samir Zaki at the Phoenix Art Gallery at 7 p.m.



## Jordan Times

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### Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Tax evasion — a government-imposed culture

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Critics blame our people for the tendency to evade financial commitments to the government, be they taxes or debts or any other form of liability. They claim that evasion is part of our national culture, unlike the Anglo-Saxon culture where citizens volunteer to declare their real liabilities and pay them promptly. If a British or American citizen discovered, at a later date, that he overlooked a source of income and thus underpaid his commitment, he would feel troubled until he got clear.

Our people are no different, and our citizens are acutely aware of their commitment and are willing to pay. Some people claim that they cannot sleep as long as they have an unpaid debt or another outstanding liability.

However, our government used to encourage evasion and default. It repeatedly penalised those who paid on time and rewarded those who failed to pay. This is, unfortunately, a consistent policy and practice. No wonder that it finally gave results — a culture of evasion.

Last week, the government decided to extend the deadline for those who failed to pay the estimated price of the public property conferred on them; thus the defaulters will keep their money and continue to own the land at the same time. Who knows, perhaps there will be a second deadline for those who fail to honour their commitment before the current deadline expires. Deadlines are

not dead at all, they are open ended. We should not be surprised if the government finally decided to relieve the residual defaulters by writing off their debt to the treasury all together. Of course those who paid on time have only themselves to blame.

The customs duty on returns' cars is another example. Returnees were given time to pay. The authorities went on record, threatening defaulters that their cars will be confiscated if they fail to pay before the deadline. Some people who knew better did not take the threats seriously. They continued to ignore the warning. However, some good-hearted citizens believed the government and took its deadline seriously. Some of them borrowed from the banks or friends to pay the customs duty, only to be surprised later on by one extension after another. After all grace periods ran out, and all deadlines expired, we hear now that the government forced a committee to look into the individual cases and study the financial well-being of those who did not pay the tax. Perhaps the committee will recommend that those "brothers" should be given more time or be exempted from the tax in appreciation of their financial difficulties, even though some of them literally own millions.

Something of the sort happened with those who failed to pay their income tax, their water and telephone bills, the installments due in favour of Agricultural Credit Corporation or Jordan Cooperative Organisation or other public sector entities.

These are not the exceptions, but a way of life representing apathy, lack of credibility and encouragement of delinquency, while penalising those who respect their commitments.

It is not true that those who pay on time are financially better off than those who stall. In most cases it is the opposite. Some returnees who paid the customs duty on their cars early, used borrowed money and paid interest. They are sorry now, but perhaps they learned a lesson for the future.

If government officials are under the impression that with these malpractices in dealing with public funds they gain popularity, they are wrong. The minority which does not pay, and finally benefits from the default, thinks that they are smart and far-sighted. They don't feel grateful to the government. The majority who pays feels that they were fooled or cheated, and lied to. Their frustration and anger will definitely not be translated into popularity of the government.

In the future, when you read government announcements regarding deadlines for the payment of any liability, do not be naive, do not believe the government. The government does not want us to pay. Officials enjoy making favours at the expense of public funds. Taking public funds lightly is an official predetermined policy of the government. The people are not to be blamed, they were trained to act that way.

## Make it right, not duty

THE INITIATIVE by 19 deputies to make voting in general elections compulsory is clearly well-intentioned but requires deeper analysis before it is adopted as the law of the land. No doubt there is considerable merit in asking eligible voters to take part in parliamentary elections because without public involvement and support the entire democratic process is threatened and at best weakened. When people call for democracy, and then stay away from voting booths on election day, they are, in effect, frustrating exactly what they had painstakingly campaigned for and achieved.

The issue, however, is not whether public participation in parliamentary elections is necessary, but rather what appropriate ways and means can be deployed to attain this purpose. For starters, to legislate laws that would penalise non-voters may not stand the test of international scrutiny. The rule of thumb under various international human rights treaties and conventions, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), is that voting is a right that citizens should be encouraged to exercise, but not a legal obligation.

Political parties and even the government can introduce campaigns calling for wider public participation in general elections. There are also educational ways to achieve this national objective, ranging from introducing courses on civics as early as possible at schools to stepping up campaigns for this purpose by the various political parties. If forced to vote, people may decide to cast negative votes when they are undecided or indifferent or simply do not know who among the candidates represents their best interest.

It must also be remembered that because of the prolonged suspension of parliamentary elections since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, our people had lost the habit of voting. So, deputies behind the move to make voting obligatory must not form hasty conclusions about public support for elections, or lack of it, on the strength of one voting experiment, namely that of 1989. There is every reason to anticipate greater public participation in the forthcoming parliamentary elections without the precipitous move to make voting a duty enforceable by law, especially after the formation and registration of several political parties. It is premature to take such a drastic step as obligatory suffrage at this stage, particularly in light of the international consensus that voting is a right, not a duty.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY ANNOUNCING that Israel plans to return some of the expelled Palestinians, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is trying to show the world that the Jewish state is trying to solve the problem gradually, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. There can be no compromise solution to the problem and the only settlement lies in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for the return of all the evicted persons without any conditions, the paper stressed. Israel is trying to present the Palestinians as refusing Israel's plan for the gradual return of the evicted people and their obstinacy as delaying moves to bring them back to their families, the paper pointed out. It said that this is an evil game which would not succeed in fulfilling Israel's objectives because nothing has been done on the ground, and the ball is still in the Israeli court. There can be no alternative to a firm stand on the part of the world community which must insist that Israel implement the U.N. resolution without any condition, continued the paper. The Arabs and the Europeans should try to see to it that prompt action is being done and the U.S. administration ought to open the way for the Security Council to impose its will and force Israel to comply with the wishes and the rules of the world community, the paper demanded. Any further delays in this matter, it said, can only reflect negatively on the world organisation and can trigger further cycles of violence in the Middle East.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Saturday urged the Jordanian government to make new bids to end the blockade on Aqaba, which is causing severe damages to the national economy. Taher Al Udwan said that Mr. Clinton has inherited Mr. Bush's orders to the U.S. war ships to impose the blockade, but the new president can and should terminate these orders if he really wishes to end the tension in the region, by imposing the blockade, Mr. Bush had wanted to take revenge on Jordan for opposing the presence of foreign forces in the Arabian Peninsula and the war on Iraq, he pointed out. The writer said it is known that Jordan is contributing to peace around the world, by supplying troops to work under United Nations auspices, and everyone realises that it is Jordan which is spearheading the Middle East peace efforts and playing a key role. Therefore, the Clinton administration ought to terminate the blockade which is harming Jordan more than any other country, he said. The Jordanian government should make a new bid now under the Clinton administration in order to end the siege and injustice to this peace-oriented country, demanded the writer. He said that Jordan's efforts towards the attainment of peace in the region could be harmed and impeded should its national economy remain impaired and should the Western powers continue to impose on the Kingdom unjust measures for its just and peaceful stand.

In ordering the expulsion of 413 Palestinians from the occupied territories, the Israeli government of Yitzhak Rabin has offered further proof of a fundamental inability to understand its "Palestinian problem", let alone deal with it in anything but military terms. For many Palestinians, whether supporters of the peace talks with Israel or opponents, the deportation order may in fact be the final proof.

At the very least, the Israeli decision is playing straight into the hands of militant Islamist groups in the occupied territories such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Unless steps are taken that effectively reverse the expulsion order within the next few weeks, Palestinian grassroots sentiment may shift decisively against the peace process. In that case the PLO may conclude that it simply cannot afford to instruct the Palestinian delegation to return to the negotiating table for yet another round of inconclusive talks.

Understanding the appeal of Hamas

The growing political clout of the main Islamist force, Hamas, has not arisen out of a vacuum. It is attracting an increasing number of adherents, who support its call for armed resistance to the Israeli military occupation and rejection of compromise, thanks to the deepening despair and polarisation provoked among the Palestinians by Israeli policies in the territories.

Contrary to Palestinian hopes the conditions of daily life eased little after Mr. Rabin took office last June. Having pledged to cease deportations and the demolition of houses belonging to security suspects, he nonetheless authorised increased resort to the feared Special Units (that operate, in effect, as undercover death squads), relaxed already liberal "rules of fire" against Palestinian activists, and oversaw continuing recourse to long curfews, and other collective punishments.

Not were the Palestinians impressed when Mr. Rabin ordered the release of 800 prisoners in September as a goodwill gesture: most had nearly completed their sentences anyway, and Israeli security forces made almost as many new arrests again in the same month.

But it is continued Israeli settlement activity that has aroused the greatest Palestinian hostility and suspicion. Despite the announced slow-down in construction at existing settlements, the Israeli housing ministry has continued to work on 121,000 houses already under contract. The ministry of defence has also helped settlement activity, with one of its key officials, a Rabin appointee, using his access to rush army-owned prefabricated

homes into certain sites before the slow-down was implemented. Most aggravating for the Palestinians, however, has been accelerated Israeli construction in and around East Jerusalem.

It is to these physical realities that Hamas points when it tells its supporters that the peace talks are a sham, which Israel is using to stifle international criticism while it creates new facts on the ground. The failure of the Palestinian negotiating team to obtain tangible changes in the daily lives of the people under Israeli military occupation has lent credence to the Hamas argument and steadily undermined the credibility of the PLO, which authorised participation in the peace process.

Peace talks at a standstill

The Palestinian-Israeli track in the peace talks had already reached a standstill before the eruption of the present crisis. Rabin first aroused Palestinian doubts when he retained cabinet secretary Elyakim Rubinstein as head of the Israeli negotiating team. This was partly due to internal politics — Mr. Rabin wished to exclude nominees of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres — but then neither did he replace any other members of the team (with the exception of a settler representative).

Originally selected by the outgoing prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, who had vowed to spin out the talks "for ten years" while he settled the territories with "half a million Jews", Mr. Rubinstein is known to prefer the Likud formula of granting the Palestinians "autonomy of people, not land." In the event, Mr. Rubinstein has not in fact needed to deviate from the new government's line, whatever his private views. The supposedly revised Israeli proposal for Palestinian autonomy on offer from Mr. Rabin's government is little different in substance from earlier documents presented during Mr. Shamir's premiership.

The current peace talks are meant to ensure a transfer of all civilian powers and authority to the Palestinians, prior to discussing the final fate of the occupied territories. This means dissolving the so-called Civil Administration that Israel created in 1980, and handing over to a Palestinian interim self-government. However, the Israeli negotiating proposal reconstitutes the self-same Civil Administration, with Israeli

personnel still in all key positions, under the guise of setting up an extensive range of "liaison committees" that effectively oversee Palestinian activity in all spheres of life.

Just as seriously, Israeli civilian ministries are in provide all services, including courts and police, for the settlers. Not only is the presence of the settlers illegal under international law, but so is this "extra-territorial" role of the ministries, which are supposed to operate only through the military occupation government. Complied with direct military involvement in the running of Palestinian affairs through the proposed "liaison committees", this extension of the Israeli legal system and civilian control into the occupied territories amounts to creeping annexation.

Such stalling on the Israeli side could only feed the sceptics and outright opponents of the peace process on the Palestinian side. Their case was put into even sharper relief when Israel announced, on the eve of the eighth round of peace talks that started on Dec. 7, completion of a tunnel connecting Israeli settle-

ments in the Bethlehem and Hebron areas of the West Bank. Already under internal pressure to boycott the talks entirely, the PLO at last responded by sending a much-reduced delegation to Washington. Despite this protest, the Palestinian negotiators were authorised to progress with their Israeli counterparts in drafting a common agenda. But by then the stage was set for confrontation in the territories.

"The only language they understand"

In a sense, the Israeli resort to mass deportation in response to the slaying of soldiers by Hamas activists was typical. Here at last was a situation that Rabin and his army command understood, both by instinct and by training. It was a straight forward military problem that had a practical answer. Such a massive response would moreover have a dramatic psychological impact. Hamas would be devastated, its ability to threaten Israelis or disrupt the peace process severely weakened, and the Palestinian "peace camp" strengthened commensurately.

In a presentation to the House Foreign Affairs Committee during the Gulf war, Mr. Baker called on the Gulf council to take the lead in "building a reinforcing network of new and strengthened security ties."

The incoming secretary of state, Warren Christopher, would do well to renew Mr. Baker's proposal.

The Gulf council, in turn, would be well advised to act before either Iran's mullahs or Saddam Hussein make new aggressive moves in the region. It should propose to Iran and others a regional arms control system that would provide for mutual inspections. There is a precedent in the chemical weapons convention that opened for signature in Paris earlier this month.

In his book "The Chemical



Or so went the reasoning. In reality, mass deportation could only confirm Hamas' militant credentials beyond any doubt. Surely, any Palestinian might argue, Israel would not resort to such extreme measures unless it saw Hamas as a real threat to its continued control over Palestinian lives and land? As added irony is that it was Israel that tacitly encouraged the rise of Hamas a decade ago, in the hope of undermining PLO influence.

The steadily increasing resort by Israel to punitive military measures over the past few months has in part been due to Mr. Rabin's wish to appear firm against Palestinian attacks, especially in the face of criticism by the Israeli right. But it also reveals an Israeli inability, or even a deep-seated unwillingness, to deal with the political roots of the challenge posed by Hamas. The question is not whether force is the only language that Palestinians understand, but whether it is the only language in which Israeli leaders really know how to speak to Palestinians.

There were, and remain, real

alternatives. One is to implement sweeping improvements in human rights as a matter of policy, instead of using the issue as a bargaining chip at the negotiating table, as the Israelis have done over the past 15 months. Another is to dispense with the pretence that Israel can ever clinch a final interim agreement with the Palestinians without talking directly to the PLO. An additional, complementary alternative for Israel is to offer substantive negotiating proposals that provide the Palestinians with meaningful control over their own lives.

That the Rabin government is unlikely to pursue any of these options, nor indeed to think up any others, is, unfortunately, borne out by the fact that the Israeli prime minister failed utterly to follow up his military initiative — the deportation order — with an equally dramatic political gesture. Common sense and political wisdom should have dictated such an approach, but Mr. Rabin appears set on doing nothing until he meets President Clinton in Washington in March. This failure, perhaps more than anything else, is a cause for pessimism about the ability of Israel to extricate itself from the corner it has painted itself into, and to save the peace process.

Time is running out

And time is now running out faster than ever. The PLO appears determined to resist pressure from Hamas and other opposition sources, despite the emerging tactical alliance. In the hope of salvaging the peace talks. It may, by offering some form of "powersharing," manage to woo Hamas leaders and so soften even their opposition to the negotiations. And in all cases, it will tread carefully in order not to allow the deportation crisis to turn into a fruitless contest of wills with Mr. Rabin.

The PLO will nonetheless grow less able to withstand grassroots pressure for a complete boycott of the peace talks as long as the deportation order stands unaltered. It will be difficult enough to get back on track even then, and the PLO may be pushed further into an awkward alliance with Hamas unless there is a substantial change in Israeli policy, especially on talking to the PLO or offering real self-government for the territories.

And even then it may be too late. History holds a lesson. In March 1968, Fatah took on a superior Israeli force at Karana just over the border in Jordan. It lost half its strength, but in doing so won thousands of new recruits and seized the Palestinian leadership virtually overnight. The mass deportation of Islamic activists may now do the same for Hamas — Middle East International.

## The Gulf states need arms control

By John C. Gault and John K. Cooley

GENEVA — Bill Clinton and his team inherit a Gulf region that is even more unstable than when George Bush came to office.

Mr. Bush's advisors from then Secretary of States James Baker on down, told Congress and the American people that "regional arms control measures" were a crucial objective, but that goal was quietly shelved. Any hope for its revival faded when Mr. Bush, at the height of the presidential campaign, announced new sales of military aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

That desperate campaign manoeuvre was seen by observers as an attempt to coddle the U.S. arms industry. It has turned smoldering Gulf embers into a raging arms buildup. This is burning out of control quite apart from the indecisive showdowns between the U.S.-led coalition and Saddam Hussein.

Russia and other ex-Soviet states have been handed a perfect

excuse to slow up conversion of their arms industries and to sell surplus weapons to the Gulf. Russia and China recently made major arms sales to Iran. Most western arms exporters continue to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf Cooperation Council countries. These extra arms are entering an explosive, volatile environment.

While most attention has been focused on the slow-motion Mideast peace talks and the U.N.-supervised and U.S.-backed destruction of Iraq's non-conventional weapons, other destabilising forces have been at work.

Iran has reasserted claims to three islands in the Gulf. Qatar and Saudi Arabia came to blows in September over a border dispute in a dispute exploited by Iran to divide the Gulf Cooperation Council (composed of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates). An old territorial dispute between Qatar and Bahrain remains unsettled.

The Gulf council itself has failed to incorporate other Arab countries — notably Syria and Egypt — in the regional security arrangements that were agreed on after the Gulf war. The council prefers a go-it-alone approach, ignoring the fact that no lasting security arrangements are possible in the Gulf without broader — and especially Iranian — participation.

Perhaps most importantly, Muslim fundamentalist movements, often with Iranian support, are gaining steadily throughout the Arab World, including Saudi Arabia.

These disturbing developments must be seen against destabilising trends from the Balkans to the Indian subcontinent. Muslim states, especially Iran, are suspected of arming Bosnian Muslims. Christians in Lebanon have shipped weapons to the Serbs.

China and India reportedly are bidding to buy a Ukrainian aircraft carrier. Despite U.S. opposition, Russia is said to have delivered at least the components

for India's long-range Agni missile programme. A second Bush administration would not have been able to make its ritual annual assurances to Congress that Pakistan had no nuclear devices. (India tested one back in 1974).

In a presentation to the House Foreign Affairs Committee during the Gulf war, Mr. Baker called on the Gulf council to take the lead in "building a reinforcing network of new and strengthened security ties."

The incoming secretary of state, Warren Christopher, would do well to renew Mr. Baker's proposal.

The Gulf council, in turn, would be well advised to act before either Iran's mullahs or Saddam Hussein make new aggressive moves in the region. It should propose to Iran and others a regional arms control system that would provide for mutual inspections. There is a precedent in the chemical weapons convention that opened for signature in Paris earlier this month.

Weapons Convention and Arms Control in the Middle East." Peter Herby argues that the chemical weapons treaty gives Middle East states an opportunity to begin confidence-building in the field of arms control. By providing for challenge inspections and banning possession — rather than merely use — of chemical weapons, the new convention provides extra assurances to its signers.

Iran has announced its willingness to sign the convention. All Gulf council countries should do the same. Moreover, they should challenge Iran to expand the convention regionally to include additional weapons, both conventional and non-conventional.

The Clinton administration should support such a Gulf council initiative. It should restrict U.S. arms sales to the whole region, rather than just to selected countries. And Washington ought to try hard to persuade other arms exporters to refrain from sales in the Gulf. It is also imperative that it do what it can

to wean U.S. arms makers off their dependency on exports. Accelerated conversion of these industries to peaceful purpose will be the key.

It might be hard to persuade the American public to defend yet another Gulf monarchy from aggression. It also will not be easy to reduce U.S. dependence on imported oil. But, taken together, these factors should drive the Clinton team to an all-out effort in support of arms control in the Gulf.

The concern that allied support might be less enthusiastic next time and that armed fundamentalists could be a more implacable source of instability than Saddam Hussein should spur the Gulf Cooperation Council to learn to live and work with Iran now.

Mr. Gault is a consultant on energy investment and finance. Mr. Cooley is an ABC News correspondent based in Cyprus. The article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.



## Birds of Jordan — a pioneering book on Kingdom's avifauna

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After years of hunting birds with "zeal and pleasure... humanitarian and cultural reasons" prompted Arslan Ramadan to trade his gun for a camera and take up the hobby of bird photography.

In 1985, Mr. Ramadan began a five-year pursuit of birds in Jordan, driving throughout the country, "from end to end", covering 200,000 kilometres in the process. The effort was crowned with a 212-page book that lists the species of birds that either stay in the country permanently or visit it during their seasonal migration.

Published by Mr. Ramadan in 1992, the book, written in Arabic and English, features coloured photos of most of the over 340 species of birds found in the country. Scientific information about these species is provided by Dr. Hala Hourani.

Mr. Ramadan says the book is not a scientific study but a documentation of many Jordanian bird species, hoping that a full documentation of the country's avifauna will be completed in the future either by him or by other workers in the field.

Noting the lack of studies on the birds of the Arab World in modern times, Mr. Ramadan says the main source of information about the fauna of Arabia comes

from western sources. Arab scholars have hardly contributed to the field, he says in his introduction to the "Birds of Jordan."

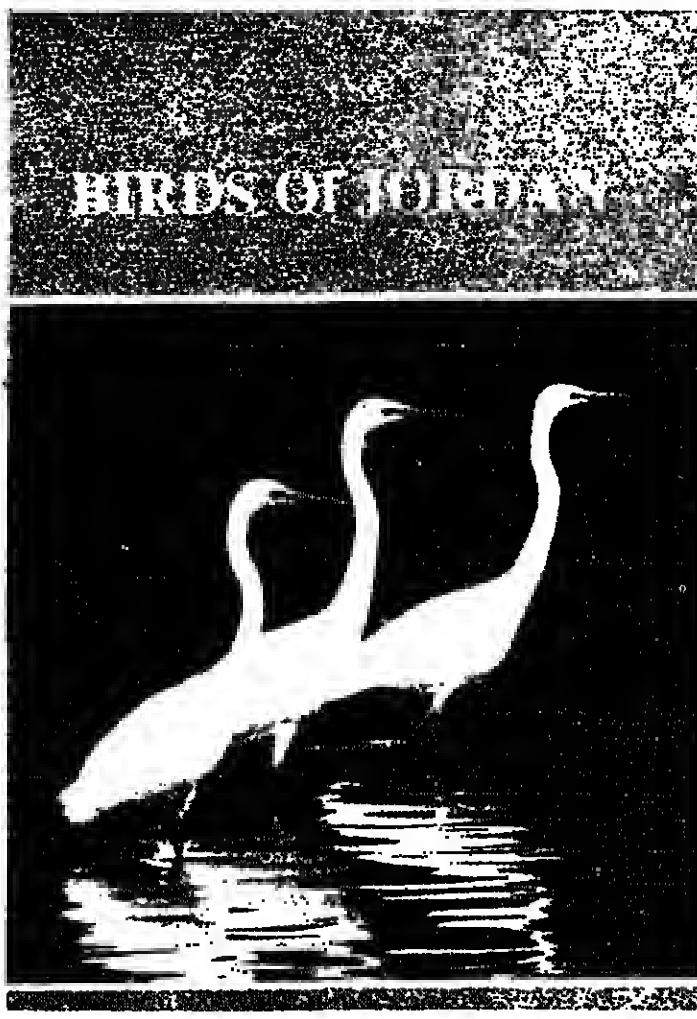
With the advent of the 20th century, however, some Arab scholars started to prepare books about the birds of their countries, depending on western sources of information, says Mr. Ramadan. Egyptian, Libyan, Iraqi, Omani and Saudi scholars, among others, later produced "excellent books" on the avifauna of their countries, Mr. Ramadan says.

Similar research in Jordan is "still in its infancy," adds Mr. Ramadan who learned photography "through practice, patience and perseverance."

According to Mr. Ramadan, Jordan has a rich avifauna that can be divided into two main categories: residents, that stay and breed in the country, such as the larks and owls, and migrant species, that visit Jordan at various times, such as hawks and waders.

Most migrating birds spend some time in the Jordan Valley and the Azraq oasis, which, according to Mr. Ramadan, provide them with "a marvellous haven" before they proceed to their breeding grounds in Europe and Asia in the spring or travel to Africa in autumn to spend the winter.

"Birds of Jordan" also lists ancient and modern Arab and western works on the birds of Arabia and their habitats.



Cover of Arslan Ramadan's book

## Society makes life easier for animals, their owners

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Donkeys and horses tied up with barbed wire and telephone cables which cut across their bodies, leaving wounds open to swarms of flies, are a common scene in Jordan. A more frequent sight is that of worn out saddles being used on horses for touristic purposes.

To the critical eye, these contraptions look like battered pieces of cloth. But a curious onlooker might decide to lift one of these "saddles" and see what lies beneath. What one would find are maggots and a raw bleeding back.

"When we inspected these 'saddles' we found they were no more than frames held together by wire, thin frail string and bits of sharp cord," said an outraged Chris Larter. She is among a team of five who make up the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals (JSPA) affiliated to the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPAN). Ms. Larter has been working with this society for the past four years as field supervisor and has been working closely with Dr. Basel Arafat, society director and veterinary surgeon at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The team follows up cases of animals that are sick and mistreated in Jordan. With two Land-Rovers and two veterinary dressers, Khaled Saliman and Mazin Qaisi, Ms. Larter covers different parts of the Kingdom on a daily basis. Usual rounds would take her to Wadi Seer, Ajloun, Salt, the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, North Shuneh, Madaba and surrounding villages.

SPAN was founded in 1923 by Mrs. Frances Hosli and her daughter Nina. This year SPANA celebrated its 70th anniversary, and a long list of accomplishments in countries such as Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, Jordan became affiliated to it upon the request of her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein in 1987.

At the moment, a clinic is being built in Deir Alla, in the Jordan Valley, as a resting place for animals needing treatment. Ms. Larter pointed out that in many cases, an animal, a donkey for example, may be treated for a raw back caused by overloading, yet the owner does not allow it to rest and ends up overloading it soon after its wounds are dressed. So, the clinic would be ideal as a resting place for worn-out animals to heal properly.

A visit by one of the mobile clinics means medical and professional help, free of charge, to people whose animals need aid. Ropes, blankets and harnesses (made from belts donated by the army) otherwise unaffordable by

these owners are given, chains are bound so that they do not cut into the animals' muzzles. Sometimes problems are faced as owners refuse to let their horses or mules be put down.

Ms. Larter explains that "these people depend on the animals for their livelihood, so putting them to sleep is unthinkable to them." As a result, the animal is worked until it drops dead from its ailment.

A hard worn traveler who has seen many cases in Jordan, Ms. Larter has some pretty gruesome stories to tell. They tell about donkey ears being chopped off, lame horses and donkeys being forced to work, infections left untreated and raw abscesses left to fester in the scorching sun.

The team makes usual rounds to villages and is met by owners who gather their ailing animals for treatment. Sometimes the team treats abandoned animals.

Ms. Larter says that many animals are abandoned at side roads because they have gone lame or are suffering from some sort of infection. In such instances, the animals are destroyed and their carcasses removed.

The team treats wounds, tendons and swollen joints, and offers the services of teeth-rasping and hoof-trimming. However, according to Ms. Larter, this is not enough since "we also aim at educating the owners. They're a lot of ignorance and poverty in North Africa and in Jordan." Consequently, a farriery course was held this summer under the supervision of Dr. Tina MacGregor and Walt Taylor from Working Together for Equines (WTFE). They trained students from local horse clubs in horse-shoeing.

"Horse-shoeing is a disappear-

ing art in Jordan, but due to these courses, especially as they travelled from village to village, there are now a reasonable number of keen young farriers at work," said Ms. Larter.

To combat the problem of saddles, Mr. Andre Bubeat, a saddler accompanying the farriery team, pointed out to animal owners the proper ways of harnessing and saddling, emphasising the use of local education in the educational curriculum, whereby children will learn how to approach animals, preventing a lot of unnecessary cruelty, added Ms. Larter.

Donkeys, concludes the supervisor, are the worst treated animals in Jordan since "they are placid and put up with the most awful injuries. A mule will not stand this and will kick, especially if it is cut under the tail from wrongly positioned wire."

Camels are other animals which are closely monitored by the society. Being susceptible to

blood parasites and skin diseases which can be transmitted to other animals, camels in the Jordan Valley are treated and recorded for various diseases.

In answer to a comment about there being so much human tragedy in the world which should be concentrated upon rather than animals, Ms. Larter says: "To ignore a donkey with a 12-inch-long maggot infected girth until the last human mouth has been fed is an act of gross inhumanity. Where is the owner going to find the money to replace the animal if it dies due to lack of treatment? Some owners depend on agricultural animals for their own survival."

Dr. Basel Arafat, who said that the society was in need of more funding, added that plans were under way for a second clinic, near Amman, which would also serve as the society's headquarters. The society's office is presently situated at the Ministry of Agriculture.



SPAN in action: Rasping the teeth of an old mule (above) and attending to a donkey's swollen leg are some of the activities meant to make animals' life more bearable, benefiting both them and their owners whose life strongly depends on that of their animals

## Premier urges fairness, adherence to rules

(Continued from page 1)

On Jan. 13 fifteen deputies asked that Parliament debate civil service appointments since the beginning of 1990 until the end of 1992 to check against alleged unfairness and favoritism in granting work opportunities to job seekers.

The Lower House has scheduled a session for Sunday to discuss this question (see page 3).

Coinciding with the prime minister's directives an 11-point government communiqué was issued Saturday giving directives concerning the filling of vacant posts at various public offices. These include the following:

— No-one can be appointed in the civil service unless a vacancy post exists. The concerned government department can request the CSC for candidates;

— The CSC should supply all government departments with a list of candidates and should follow the appointment procedures;

— Each government department planning to carry out capital projects should prepare a list of these projects before the end of February giving particulars about the needed technical personnel;

— Government departments should prepare lists of posts and

the people filling them in cooperation with the Budget Department and the CSC;

— Government departments wishing to hire people should request the approval of the CSC, which in turn can nominate candidates;

— These measures should be followed under all categories of and various types of jobs — permanent or temporary;

— The Ministry of Education should lay down rules and principles for appointment of employees receiving pay from allocations for overtime work. The ministry should publish the names of appointees in the local press;

— Government departments can make new appointments in accordance with articles 13 and 18 of the CSC regulations issued in 1988;

— The names of appointees should appear in more than one daily newspaper;

— A copy of the appointments should be supplied to the Audit Bureau, the CSC, the ACIB and the Ministry of Finance; and

— The implementation of three directives should be closely followed by the Audit Bureau, the ACIB and the General Budget Department.

## Deputies seek ban on any blockade

(Continued from page 1)

proposed in the signatories' letter, says that "the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan cannot sever relations with any other Arab state and it cannot close its border with any of the Arab states and it is categorically banned from imposing an embargo on trade in any of its forms by land, sea or air against any Arab state."

This move comes a week after a group of 300 leading Jordanian personalities signed a statement urging the government to break the "international embargo on Iraq which went into effect" in August of 1990 at the beginning of the Gulf crisis.

In their statement, the Jordanian politicians, including some of the signatories of the new statement, said Jordan "should spearhead Arab efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people."

There was no official reaction to the old letter, but many government members privately criticised its contents and described it at the time as an attempt to

outbid the government on the question of relations with Iraq.

The signatories of Saturday's letter included: Abdul Karim Dughmi, Salim Zoubi, Ibrahim Ghababsheh, Mohammad Faris Tarawneh, Deeb Marji, Isa Rimoni, Mansour Murad, Abdul Munim Abu Zant, Daoud Kojak, Ibrahim Khreisat, Ahmad Kofahi, Ziad Abu Mahfouz, Kamel Omari, Ahmad Kafawneh, Mohammad Al Haj, Abdul Aziz Jabar, Hamam Sa'ad, Yousef Al Athem, Deeb Anis, Hamzeh Mansour, Yousef Khasawneh, Fawzi Shaker Tuimeh, Fakhri Kawar, Ali Faqr, Mohammad Dardour, Ahmad Innab, Hussein Mjalli, Hasni Shiyab, Abdul Baqi Gammo, Mohammad Alawneh, Mohammad Bakhit Muarar, Mohammad Azaideh, Saad Haddadin, Ali Hawadeh, Faris Nabulsi, Abdullah Akaleh, Yacoub Qarash, Abdul Hafiz Alawi, Bassam Haddadin and Laith Sbelleat.

## U.S. said to have put Israel on notice

(Continued from page 1)

the cases of the expellees, and possibly bring back some of them.

But Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a spokesman for the evictees at their tent camp in Marj Al Zuhour in southern Lebanon, told reporters they would reject any solution short of returning all of them.

Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari, meanwhile, had no comment on the report in the Washington Post.

Arab delegations have said they would not resume the peace talks begun in October 1991 unless the evictees were returned. The last round of talks were in December in Washington.

Mr. Peres was interviewed on Israel Radio from Davos, Switzerland, where he was lobbying European officials against supporting Security Council sanctions when the forum convenes next week. He said he was confident the measure would not go

through. He said that sanctions would reward the Muslim fundamentalists who object to peace negotiations, and "in the end the peace process would be punished more than Israel."

But Mr. Peres acknowledged the negotiations were in trouble because of the controversy. "We have a problem about how to renew the peace process," he said.

He added that it was "a very complicated situation."

Energy Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the left-wing Meretz Party told the radio that Thursday's high court ruling, though it upheld the expulsions, "also offered a way for a compromise solution."

Mr. Rubinstein referred to Mr. Rabin's promise to the court to review all the evictees' cases, without any link to whether they decide to appeal. Israeli reports said Friday that dozens of the men could end up returning after the reviews.

The process, Mr. Rubinstein said, "will allow Israel, putting it cautiously, to partially comply with international demands without handing over a total victory to the Hamas people."

Expellee spokesman Rantisi suggested the Palestinians would not accept the idea.

"Our cause is one. We don't believe in partial solutions. The U.N. resolution calls for our immediate and unconditional return," all of us.

But in Tunis, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Political Department head Farouk Kaddoumi sounded more open to a compromise. "Our aim has never been to make the Security Council issue a resolution punishing Israel but to make the expellees return to their homes," he said.

"If we can convince all the world countries including the United States to pressure Israel... then our goal is achieved," he added.

## Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

at elections, the elected members will decide."

He said Hamas would accept a Palestinian state on only part of the area of mandate Palestine as a first step towards freeing the whole territory from Israeli rule. The position opens the possibility of common ground between Hamas and Fatah for which the aim of the peace talks is Palestinian independence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Nazzari said: "We believe that a state can be established on any part of Palestinian territory that is liberated. So we are not against a staged solution... but we cannot give legitimacy to the other party (Israel) by recognising that the remaining part of Palestinian territory is not Palestinian."

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# Technician rings alarm throughout Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil (R) — A young computer technician walked out of Brazil's central bank with a stolen box of what he thought were worn diskettes and found he had touched off a nationwide alarm.

Among the diskettes were two that held secret central bank estimates on the movement of billions of dollars in the country's foreign reserves, including a projection about how high January's reserve levels would be.

In a scenario worthy of a Hollywood fantasy, Hilton Ferreira da Silva's Jan. 19 theft — which he confessed to Wednesday — quickly put federal agents on his trail.

The theft was headline news in Brazil and the central bank tightened security, changing computer codes and instituting escorts for visitors.

Although bank officials said the information on the tapes did not threaten the reserves' security,

President Itamar Franco ordered Economy Minister Paulo Haddad to announce Brazil's reserve levels at a late-night news conference to prevent financial speculation.

In New York, the robbery sparked laughter and jokes about missed opportunities in the Brazilian debt securities market, where the size of international reserves has been a bone of contention in debt talks between Brazil and creditor banks.

"Imagine if a trader had found that reserves were much lower than the central bank claimed. He could have betted the cruzeiro (Brazil's currency) would be devalued and cornered the market later on," a Brazilian debt trader said.

Bankers have said they believe Brazil is underestimating its reserves to win a larger chunk of financing from the International Monetary Fund for its \$44 billion debt accord. An unexpectedly large figure would give the banks more leverage in persuading Brazil to use its own reserves.

Traders said the affair could have left the Brazilian government red-faced.

"There have been some discrepancies in the last couple of years about the information the government has given on reserve positions," one said.

Police say the 21-year-old computer maintenance technician had apparently had no thoughts of using the secret information on the 11 Brazilian-made tapes but hoped to erase the data and sell them for a few dollars apiece.

"He's a poor boy, we're poor people," said Mr. Ferreira's mother, Maria Lourdes Araújo. "He tried to support his family with this little thing that he did. He didn't do anything wrong."

Mr. Ferreira, who landed the diskettes to a friend to safeguard and was worried about getting caught that he even suggested they be destroyed, confessed Wednesday "because the pressure was getting to be too much," federal police said.

He was charged with theft and released pending trial.

"The important thing is that the diskettes were recovered and that the people who were responsible were identified," said Antonio Carlos Monteiro, head of the central bank's Department of International Reserves Operations.

where the disks were stored.

Mr. Ferreira, employed by a company contracted to maintain computers, was working on a terminal at bank headquarters when he saw a maroon-and-beige storage box "with used computer disks that were in very bad condition," his statement said.

He walked out of the building with the box in a briefcase. Bank officials noticed they were missing that day and alerted President Franco.

Mr. Ferreira, who lives with his mother in a working class suburb, said that after leaving the bank offices he ran into a friend, computer technician Claudio de Melo, 20. Mr. Ferreira asked him to hold on to the diskettes.

A few days later he asked Mr. De Melo to destroy them "because they are complicating my life," his deposition said. Mr. De Melo instead gave them to another computer technician, Robson da Rocha, 19, who said he needed some blank disks.

After Mr. Ferreira confessed, agents recovered the diskettes at Mr. Da Rocha's workplace. He and Mr. De Melo have not been charged.

## Low demand puts Ferrari off fast track

MARANELLO, Italy (R) — Sports car maker Ferrari has said it would lay off 700 workers for four weeks in February and March, its third such move since November aimed at cutting production due to dwindling demand. Ferrari SPA, owned by Italian car giant Fiat SPA, said 700 workers at the Maranello plant in northern Italy would be laid off for the first two weeks of February and the first two weeks

of March. Some 970 workers were laid off from Nov. 3 to 15 after the firm reported a drop in demand in the United States, Britain and Italy. Ferrari also laid off 950 employees for 10 days before Christmas because of weak demand on Italian and foreign markets. November was the first time it had laid off workers temporarily since 1974, when soaring oil prices forced it to cut production.

## Toyota, Nissan and Lexus raise prices

DETROIT (AP) — Three Japanese automakers announced price increases Friday, following similar decisions in the last week by two U.S. automakers.

This is the third consecutive year Japanese makers have increased prices after model year introductions.

Previously, the jumps were blamed on currency fluctuations that increased the value of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar.

But Toyota spokesman John Hanson said the increase was "aimed primarily at increased costs in operations and manufacturing."

Toyota Motor Sales USA said it would raise 1993 model prices an average \$175, or 1.2 per cent. The highest increases were three per cent on the Land Cruiser sport utility truck, up \$950, and the MR2 sports coupe, up \$638. The smallest increase was one per cent, or \$193, on the Camry sedan.

The Corolla Compact and T100 pickup truck were exempt because they are new models this year.

Lexus, Toyota's luxury car division, raised prices an average of 1.2 per cent effective Feb. 26. The highest increase was \$500, or 1.4 per cent, on the SC300 coupe. The lowest increase was \$400, or 0.9 per cent, on the LS400.

Lexus said its new GS300 will have a base sticker price of \$37,500 when it goes on sale in late February. Lexus expects to sell 25,000 of the new model.

Nissan Motor Corp. USA said it will raise prices \$200 to \$300 on selected models of its new Altima sedan effective Monday.

Altima, which has been a hot seller since being introduced last fall, kept its base model at \$12,999.

## Yeltsin gets pay raise

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's parliament has decided to raise President Boris Yeltsin's monthly salary to the equivalent of \$125, FTIR-TASS news agency said. It said parliament set Mr. Yeltsin's salary at 72,000 rubles. TASS did not give Mr. Yeltsin's earlier salary, but the increase appeared only to keep the president abreast of inflation that has racked the country since market reforms began last January. The average monthly salary is 13,000 rubles. Oil workers in remote parts of Siberia earn about the same as Mr. Yeltsin.

## Kuwait Investment Office appeals against Spanish judge's rejection of lawsuit

MADRID (R) — The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) has appealed against rejection by a Spanish judge of its lawsuit against seven former managers of its Spanish holding company Grupo Torras. Its legal representatives have said.

Judge Miguel Moreiras declined the KIO suit on Tuesday on procedural grounds, saying the Madrid Court of First Instance must first finish considering an application for suspension of payments by Grupo Torras.

Whether or not there are criminal charges to pursue depends on the civil court's findings, he said.

KIO filed suit against a number of former Torras managers, including Catalan financier Javier de la Rosa and former KIO general manager Fouad Jaffar on Jan. 8, citing fraud and other crimes which it says led to losses of about \$1 billion.

Torras filed for receivership in December with losses of around \$14 billion.

Grupo Torras had built up substantial holdings in some of the largest property, chemical and food companies, some of which are also in receivership.

KIO chief Ali Rashid Al Badr was quoted as saying in Kuwait that KIO will stay in the Spanish market despite losses in Spain and will seek an overall improvement in the management of its worldwide portfolio.

"The KIO will not withdraw from the Spanish market and will continue to hunt for good investment opportunities," Sheikh Badr told the official Kuwait News Agency KUNA in a report published late Friday.

Sheikh Badr, reiterating earlier estimates, said preliminary figures put losses from Spanish holding company Grupo Torras S.A. over the past six years at \$5 billion, KUNA said.

Spain, concerned about a possible abrupt withdrawal of Kuwaiti investment, said last month it had secured commitments from Kuwait to ensure any disinvestment from Spain did not cause the collapse of companies there.

"I am confident the official's future transactions will improve considerably," Sheikh Badr was quoted as saying of KIO's global strategy.

"The new policy now aims at ridding the KIO of losing ventures and consolidating the successful ones," he added.

"The KIO investment costs in Torras over the past six years, including loans and contributions, totalled some \$5 billion," Sheikh Badr was quoted as saying.

"But a final count of the actual losses depends on liquidation of the group's holdings and the money that will be collected from the misappropriators," he pointed out.

He said the KIO made monthly transfers of about \$100 million to Torras until the first quarter of 1992 to settle its financial obligations and finance affiliated companies.

Sheikh Badr became KIO chairman last year after the retirement of Sheikh Fahd Mohammad Al Sabah.

London-based KIO manages a worldwide investment portfolio aimed at sustaining future generations when the country's oil runs out.

The fund was estimated before the Gulf war at about \$100 billion but war expenses including massive payments to U.S.-led allies, restoration of oilfields, as well as alleged misuse of investment funds, has brought the level down to around \$40 billion, economists say.

Al Qabas newspaper said there was concern in some Asian investment markets that the KIO would continue to liquidate assets in the region.

The report, based on unnamed sources, said Kuwaiti investments in Singapore and Malaysia stood at about \$608 million — the level of Kuwaiti investment in Singapore alone in late 1990.

The report said Kuwaiti investments in Japan stood pre-war at \$10 billion, about 13 per cent of the portfolio's stake in major industrialised countries. The report gave no figure for current Kuwaiti investment in Japan.

## African bankers agree to set up 'Afreximbank'

CAIRO (R) — African central and commercial banks agreed Friday to set up an import-export bank with a capital of \$500 million to boost trade within the continent and with the rest of the world.

"An understanding was reached during the meeting concerning a new bank — the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) — to be created to finance and facilitate trade among African states and with the rest of the world," the project's main sponsor, the African Development Bank (ADB) announced in a statement.

Afreximbank aims to help exporters hamstrung by Africa's weak commercial banking network and the high cost of financing trade through banks outside the continent.

A two-day meeting in Cairo of African central and commercial banks and ministers gave no date for establishing the bank but agreed to set up a 12-member committee to finalise details.

"There is a genuine institutional and financial gap in Africa's trading framework to be addressed by the establishment of the Afreximbank," said the statement read by an ADB official at the end of the meeting.

Afreximbank aims to increase official intra-African trade from its present low level of nearly five per cent of the continent's total trading volume to about 20 per cent over the next few years, ADB officials said.

One aim is to promote non-traditional exports to complement the commodities and raw materials Africa already supplies to industrial nations.

The statement said the bank would be set up with a minimum capital of \$500 million by an agreement among African states.

ADB President Bahacar Ndoye said governments' shareholdings would be limited to prevent them from controlling the bank.

He said the meeting, attended by 27 central banks, 30 commercial banks and ministers, agreed to set up a 12-member committee "to facilitate and ensure the successful completion of the transitional phase leading to the launch of the proposed bank."

He said the committee would meet in March to finalise the bank's legal and institutional structure and membership, details of how it would operate, and when it could be launched.

The headquarters is planned to be in a North African country which would provide a gateway to Europe as well as a base for the flow of trade between Africa and other parts of the world.

Egypt has officially applied to host the bank.

## Togo general strike hits phosphates exports

KPEME (R) — Togo's struggling phosphates industry has been hit hard by an indefinite general strike led by opponents of President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

Banks, ministries, companies, schools and public transport, as well as the Office Togolais des Phosphates (OTP), all ground to a halt on Nov. 16. Opposition parties, relying on popular support and a degree of coercion, are hoping the strike will fatally enfeeble Mr. Eyadema.

The strike in itself has been serious for OTP, the country's biggest industry and largest single exporter.

But the world market for phosphates, the raw material for fertilisers, is itself shrinking and the outlook for OTP is really bleak unless a settlement is reached soon.

That looks unlikely, especially after Mr. Eyadema's security forces killed at least 17 demonstrators on Jan. 25.

In a statement the day after the massacre the strike leaders, grouped in a coalition known as COD2, urged "the Togolese people not to lose heart but to redouble their determination to

achieve final victory."

At Kpeme, OTP's processing plant and loading port 35 kilometres west along the Atlantic coast from the capital Lome, the big machines are silent. The last of the pre-strike stockpile, which workers had agreed to load on vessels, ran out Tuesday.

"OTP has never faced so many problems since it came into existence," said Claude Moraitis, director-general of the state-owned company.

"At the moment we have agreed with Senegal to honour any shipments we can't cover," he said in an interview.

OTP already had a mountain of problems before the strike.

World for phosphates has shrunk by 25 per cent in the past decade.

Privatisations in Mexico and India hit two of Togo's major buyers. The European market is in jeopardy because the environmental lobby is gunning for dirty industries making raw phosphates into fertilisers and other products.

Pressure from the European Greens is encouraging buyers to switch to Morocco, the world's biggest producer, which processes the phosphates locally.

"We tried very hard last year to find new markets but then the general strike intervened," Mr. Moraitis said.

He was appointed boss in 1991 as part of a clean break with OTP's past. Mr. Eyadema's opponents had accused the president of running the enterprise as a personal bank.

OTP, which sits on known reserves of at least 100 million tonnes, managed to export 2.1 million tonnes in 1992, about one million tonnes less than the previous year. The 1993 goal was also two million, half to a Canadian buyer, for a projected annual turnover of about \$80 million.

If the strike ends quickly, or if OTP can agree a "minimum service" deal with unions, the damage will not be lasting.

At one stage workers were ready to resume enough production to inland quarries to honour delivery contracts.

But the strike organisers did not sanction the deal.

## Porsche expects growing losses in current year

STUTTGART (R) — Luxury sports car maker Porsche expects a loss of 120 million marks (\$76 million) in the first half of the current financial year and an even bigger shortfall over the full 12 months, the company has said.

But Porsche's management was already looking ahead to the 1993/94 year starting on Aug. 1 and hoped drastic job cuts, restructuring and a new model policy would bring recovery.

"At the moment we are in the bottom of the valley," Wendelin Wiedeking, the new management board chairman of Dr.-Ing. H.C. F. Porsche A.G., said, adding he hoped to break even in 1993/94. But, in the meantime, he said

demand for cars in Germany was expected to plunge, an economic recovery in the key U.S. market was getting under way only slowly and Porsche had to shoulder the cost of trimming its workforce by almost 20 per cent.

"In the current year we expect a further decline in sales and earnings," Mr. Wiedeking said.

Mr. Wiedeking, 40, and his chief financial officer Walter Gnauert declined to give a specific loss forecast for the full year, citing uncertainty about the economy in Germany, Europe and the United States.

"We will be happy if we don't have a loss of 240 million (\$152 million) for the full year," Mr.

Gnauert replied when asked if the first half loss could double in the full year.

"I cannot give you a serious earnings forecast," he added.

Analyst Joachim Bernsdorff of Bank Julius Baer A.G. was among those not surprised by Porsche's forecast, saying he had expected for a few months that it would report a loss for the current year of around 150 million marks (\$95 million).

Although Mr. Bernsdorff agreed with Porsche that it should fare much better in 1993/94, the final verdict will first come in the mid-1990s when a new line of sports cars emerge.

"Nineteen-ninety-five will be

the year of truth," he said.

Porsche plunged into a loss of 65.8 million marks (\$42 million) in the 1991/92 financial year, which ended last July 31, after a slim profit of 17.1 million marks (\$10.8 million) in the previous 12 months.

For the first half, Mr. Wiedeking predicted a loss 120 million marks, up from a gap of just 2 million marks (\$1.25 million) in the same period of 1991-92.

For the full year 1992/93, Mr. Wiedeking said he expects Porsche's sales to fall to 1.7 billion marks (\$1.1 billion), down from 2.6 billion marks (\$1.7 billion).

## Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 28/1/93	New York Close Date 29/1/93
Sterling Pound	1.5155	1.4870
Deutsche Mark	1.5860	1.6115
Swiss Franc	1.4625	1.4680
French Franc	5.5655	5.4515
Japanese Yen	124.20	124.65
European Currency Unit	1.2561**	1.2115

\* USD Per STD  
\*\* European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.12	3.25	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.58	6.37	6.00	5.93
Deutsche Mark	8.56	8.37	7.93	7.50
Swiss Franc	5.37	5.37	5.31	5.12
French Franc	15.00	12.75	11.00	9.50
Japanese Yen	5.50	5.45	5.34	5.31
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.75	9.56	9.00

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

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# Bosnian, Croatian fighting eases; Muslims, Serbs refuse peace plan

**BELGRADE (R)** — Fighting eased on the icy war fronts of former Yugoslavia Saturday as Bosnia's warring factions were urged to settle a peace plan ironed out in five months of talks.

At a Geneva peace conference, only Bosnia's Croats signed a three-part package, which includes a ceasefire, a new constitution and a new provincial structure for the country.

Serb leader Radovan Karadzic signed the constitutional principles and the military accord, but Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic would sign only the constitutional principles he already agreed to earlier this month.

Diplomats said bilateral talks could be held later to pressure the two sides. The Geneva negotiations were set to continue once the mediators had won United Nations approval for their plan.

As the three sides sat down for a make-or-break session with mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, Lord Owen warned they would ask the United Nations to "use the necessary powers whether they be political, economic or military to impose this settlement" against any party which rejected it.

The Muslims are most strongly opposed to the plan, saying it will reward Serb aggression by giving them land they have seized and enslave ethnic divisions.

Bosnia's Serbs accepted the first, constitutional part of the package at the last round of talks in Geneva early this month.

They have been under strong pressure in recent weeks from the government in Belgrade, their main backer, to accept a peace formula as a way of getting international sanctions lifted, imposed on Serbia because of its role in the Bosnian conflict.

After nearly a month of fierce

fighting across hundreds of kilometres from eastern Croatia to the Bosnian border with Serbia, a rare lull apparently set in with much of the country in the grip of ice and snow.

In Bosnia, there was some overnight shelling of the Serb-besieged capital of Sarajevo and only two heavy Muslim-Serb clashes were reported, in the Tuzla area about 75 kilometres to the north of the city and on the River Drina border to the east.

In Croatia, where a new war front is in its second week, rebel Serbs said they would observe U.N. calls for a ceasefire in a region around the crippled Peruc hydroelectric dam so repair work can be carried out.

British engineers were due in Zagreb to help in the work, although Croatian officials said fears the dam would burst and cause massive damage and loss of life were diminishing.

Croatian forces suddenly pushed across a U.N.-monitored year-old ceasefire line nine days ago and seized strategic areas along the border of the Serb-held enclave of Krajina.

After talks with U.N. officials in Krajina's main city of Knin, Defence Minister Stojan Stanovic said there would be no Serb move to recapture their former positions while the dam was being repaired under U.N. protection.

The huge concrete structure was damaged in three places during heavy fighting around its strategic location at the head of a long valley leading down to the Adriatic Sea.

U.N. officials said 21 of their civilian police monitors, who had been confined since Sunday to a hotel in Benkovac, on the western edge of Krajina, after the town was caught up in the fighting, were freed and taken to Knin Thursday and Friday.

In Zagreb, official radio reported only one artillery duel during the night, at a village near Karlovac 50 kilometres southwest of the capital. There were no reports of injuries.

In central Bosnia, a truce appeared to be holding between Muslims and Croats — supposed allies against the Serbs — after weeks of heavy fighting sparked by the peace plan's proposed carve-up of the former Yugoslav republic's ethnically-mixed heartland.

Meanwhile, Ukraine Friday denied that it had violated U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia, saying oil reaching Serbian ports through Ukrainian territory originated in other countries.

A Foreign Ministry statement said oil loaded onto Serb barges in Ukraine's Danube port of Reni was processed in five other countries for shipment to Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and the former Czechoslovakia.

Five tugs have taken oil loaded in Reni to Serbian ports on the Danube, defying demands from Bulgarian and Romanian authorities to stop in the name of the sanctions imposed against Belgrade for its role in the civil war in Bosnia.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, also denied Ukraine had violated the sanctions, saying "not a single litre" of Ukrainian oil was aboard the barges.

In a separate development, senior U.S. military officials said Friday, enforcing a no-fly zone or supplying Bosnian Muslims with arms would do little to stop Serb aggression in Bosnia.

The officers, testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, said most of the violations of the no-fly zone outlined by the United Nations last Oct. 9 have

been resupply missions from Croatia to Muslims, and not Serb warplanes.

The last reported violation by a Bosnian Serb fixed-wing aircraft was Dec. 5, enforcing the cap would make "no appreciable military difference," said Rear Adm. Mike W. Cramer, director of current intelligence for the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Enforcing the no-fly zone and lifting the embargo on arms transfers to the beleaguered Muslims are two possibilities being studied by the United States and its allies as they search for ways to stop the carnage in the former Yugoslav state.

During the presidential campaign, then-candidate Bill Clinton criticised President George Bush for not doing enough in Bosnia. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday that the administration continues to explore a "wide range of options" but is not close to a decision.

The military officials acknowledged that Muslim forces are vastly outnumbered by the Serbs, but Lt. Gen. Martin L. Brandtner, director of operations, in the Joint Chiefs of Staff Office, said the outcome of lifting the arms embargo for the Muslims would "just be more chaos."

"Each of the sides would continue to acquire illicit and legalised support," Gen. Brandtner said. "I think it would just be contributing to the violence and would have no salutary effect."

The officers were even stronger in warning of the dangers of sending ground troops to end fighting in Bosnia. "The cost would be very heavy, it would be very long-term," Gen. Brandtner said. Without a specific and very focused objective, "this would be an enormous pool that would drain resources."



A Croatian policeman looks at the destroyed part of the hydroelectric power station at the Peruc dam in southern Croatia (AFP photo)

## French, Belgian troops arrive in Zaire

**BRAZZAVILLE (Agencies)** — Some 300 Belgian paratroops arrived in Congo Saturday, joining French soldiers primed to evacuate foreigners from Zaire's riot-torn capital Kinshasa.

Belgian military sources said the 330 troops, part of a 500-man force earmarked by Brussels for the operation, were prepared to cross the Congo River to Kinshasa in defiance of Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Mr. Mobutu, who is staying in his remote northern stronghold at Gbadolite, gave clearance Friday for French troops to enter the vast African country on humanitarian grounds, but said soldiers from former colonial power Belgium were not welcome.

A controversial banknote that sparked the riots is still in circulation, sources close to Mr. Mobutu said Saturday.

Belgian radio reported Friday night that the five-million zaire note — worth less than \$2 — had been withdrawn by presidential decree.

There was a tense lull in Kinshasa Saturday after the army-led riots in which at least 45 people died, but fleeing expatriates said they feared there was worse to come.

Sporadic gunshots could be heard in the city Friday night from across the Congo River in Brazzaville, the Congolese capital.

Diplomatic sources in radio contact with Kinshasa said it was relatively quiet Saturday but there were still some reports of shooting and tension remained very high. Several columns of

smoke could be seen on the skyline.

They said the city centre had been completely plundered by military and civilian looters in riots started by mutinous soldiers last Thursday.

"What's most worrying is that everything has been practically destroyed, so there's no food," one Western diplomat said.

The soldiers went on the rampage after shops and markets refused to accept their wages paid in the new five-million-zaire banknotes.

The notes, Zaire's highest denomination, were issued by Mr. Mobutu but rejected by opposition Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi, who says they are inflationary.

Witnesses said the gun-toting soldiers were joined by thousands of civilians reduced to desperate poverty by unemployment, hyperinflation and unpaid wages.

Mr. Mobutu's elite Presidential Guard, the DSP, weighed in with heavy weapons and grenades to quell the riots, leaving streets littered with corpses of soldiers and civilians. Some guardsmen did looting of their own.

Belgian aid workers said they counted at least 45 dead, including three foreigners, but the actual toll is expected to be much higher.

The sprawling city of three million people was virtually cut off from the world Saturday. Kinshasa's international airport was closed and the ferry to Brazzaville was not running for a second day.

Communications, always tenuous, were under even more strain than usual.

Diplomatic sources said streets were deserted and the DSP had banned all traffic in the city centre.

The Belgian troops join 140 French soldiers on standby in Brazzaville, ready to evacuate foreigners when the order comes from Paris or Brussels.

"Everything's ready but for the moment no decision has been taken," a French embassy spokesman in Brazzaville said.

Belgian officers said they would check conditions in Kinshasa and bring in more troops if required.

Ten French paratroops have already crossed the river to reinforce security at their embassy, where the French ambassador and two other people were shot dead Thursday.

Residents crowded in their homes and more than 700 foreign workers were huddled in various embassies awaiting evacuation.

An estimated 3,000 Belgians, 1,000 French and assorted other nationals have stayed in or returned to the vast central African country since a similar orgy of looting in late 1991, in which more than 250 people were killed.

Mr. Mobutu honoured slain French Ambassador Philippe Bernard with the rank of Commander in the Zairean National Order of the Leopard Saturday, a presidential statement said.

It added that Mr. Mobutu wanted a joint Franco-Zairean commission of inquiry into Mr. Bernard's death.

## Progress made at Angola peace talks

**ADDIS ABABA (Agencies)** — The Angolan government and its UNITA rebel forces have made progress at three-day-old peace talks but there is scant hope of a ceasefire being agreed, delegates said.

They said talks continued Saturday to review progress on political issues and the session could be extended until Sunday if it seemed possible to hammer out an deal to fighting across the country.

"If there is the slightest chance of a ceasefire being agreed, we would meet again tomorrow," said one diplomat attending the talks.

"If not, we'll probably wrap up today with a broad agreement to meet again in a week or so somewhere else and push this process along," he added.

Delegates said a United Na-

tions Security Council Resolution extending the mandate of a U.N. peacekeeping force in Angola had given the peace process some momentum and a breathing space in which to bring the two together.

The Security Council Friday unanimously renewed the mandate of U.N. peacekeepers in Angola to April 30 but permitted the United Nations to cut down its presence if security in the west African country continued to deteriorate.

"No one is going to win this war, so talks are the only way out. It is a positive sign that negotiation has begun," said another delegate to the talks in Addis Ababa.

Speakers from the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) said they were pressing for the dis-

banding of riot police squads as a condition for agreeing on other issues at the talks.

But delegates said the government had agreed to put the police under the supervision of UN-AVEM, the United Nations Force in Angola, and could not understand UNITA's objections.

They said UNITA was also demanding guarantees that any ceasefire would be honoured.

The previous truce agreed in November broke down within 48 hours and fighting has raged ever since.

Meanwhile, government troops struggled to recapture the rebel stronghold of Huambo, where thousands of people have been reported killed in three weeks of fighting.

Downed phone lines across most of the sparsely populated country make it difficult to know

which side has the upper hand.

But the seasoned UNITA forces were believed to have effective control of more than 75 per cent of the vast southern African nation.

Huambo, Angola's second largest city, has been headquarters to Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels since they took up arms on Oct. 31, renewing a 16-year civil war.

Army Chief of Staff Joao De Matos said government troops controlled strategic access around Huambo and were shelling the city 50 kilometres southeast of Luanda, which they first attacked on Jan. 9.

An army statement broadcast Friday on state television said that government troops defeated a rebel battalion in Huambo. No further details were given.

## Siha condemns violence in Cambodia

**PEKING (R)** — A Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh has condemned violence in his country and called for self-restraint by all parties in the run-up to elections set for May.

Speaking on behalf of the Supreme National Council he heads, Prince Sihaouk did not mention by name the recalcitrant Khmer Rouge, which appears unlikely to join in the polls aimed at creating a lasting peace in a country racked by civil war.

"We...condemn all acts and

forms of violence (assassinations with political motives, racist crimes, harassment, intimidation, menace, political terrorism, etc.) against Cambodians or foreigners in Cambodia," the prince said in a statement.

"We call on all political parties, armed and unarmed factions and the entire world to constantly observe self-restraint in their attitudes, acts and relations towards and with each other."

Meanwhile, Hanoi has rejected a charge by the radical Khmer Rouge that Vietnamese troops are still in Cambodia, saying the guerrillas used that claim to defend recent massacres of Vietnamese residents, official Hanoi newspapers said Friday.

Hanoi's three main dailies quoted a spokesman of the Vietnamese embassy in Phnom Penh as saying the Khmer Rouge was using the unsubstantiated claim to sabotage the United Nations peace process in Cambodia.

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### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Ghali to visit Cambodia

**PHNOM PENH (R)** — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali is to visit Cambodia from Feb. 19 to 21, a U.N. spokesman said. Dr. Ghali is to inspect the work of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), a 22,000-strong peacekeeping operation costing more than \$2 billion that is organising national elections for May. UNTAC was deployed in March 1992 as the most ambitious and expensive operation of its kind. Dr. Ghali last visited Cambodia in April last year.

#### Gore, Rutskol talk on telephone

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Vice presidents Al Gore of the United States and Alexander Rutskol of Russia discussed U.N. sanctions against Iraq and former Yugoslavia in a telephone conversation, the ITAR-TASS News Agency said. The men agreed on the need to cooperate in settling the issues. ITAR-TASS said. They also reaffirmed support for the START II disarmament treaty signed last month between President Boris Yeltsin and then-President George Bush. Mr. Gore said Russia is the Clinton administration top priority in foreign affairs and the United States "is ready to do its best to contribute to the development of Russian democracy and market reforms." ITAR-TASS said. The men agreed on the need for joint efforts to bring home any remaining Soviet soldiers still held in Afghanistan, as well as work to find information about Americans who may have been in the Soviet Union.

#### World's richest man dies at 88

**TOKYO (AP)** — Taikichi Mori, ranked by Forbes magazine as the world's richest man, died of heart failure Saturday at a Tokyo hospital, a company official said. He was 88. Mr. Mori, a landowner and president of Mori Building Co., was worth an estimated \$13 billion, heading an empire of 83 buildings on some of the world's most expensive land. In person, Mr. Mori was unpretentious, often seen working at his office wearing a traditional kimono. In an interview with the Associated Press two years ago, he acknowledged feeling uncomfortable about being labelled the world's richest man. Forbes accorded him that title in 1991 and 1992. Taking advantage of the rapid postwar economic growth in Japan, Mr. Mori built his empire, starting from two buildings owned by his father.

#### Clinton spends weekend in mountains

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Bill Clinton is taking along the whole cabinet for his first weekend at Camp David, turning it into a "retreat" where members of the new administration can get to know each other better and map strategy. The group was gathered Saturday at the presidential compound in Catoctin Mountains, outside Washington, for a two-day strategy session. "They will be talking about the president's long-term legislative agenda, particularly economic reform, political reform, health care and national service, and working out how best to work together to achieve those objectives," said Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers. It will be Mr. Clinton's first visit to Camp David, and Ms. Myers predicted the president will be a frequent visitor to the rustic Maryland getaway about 120 kilometres from the White House.

#### At least 50 dead in Kenyan train crash

**NAIROBI (R)** — At least 50 people were killed Saturday when a commuter train carrying about 600 passengers plunged into a river near Mombasa, railway officials said. "At least five coaches plunged into a swelling river and were washed away because of current heavy rains," a senior official told Reuters by telephone from the Indian Ocean city of Mombasa. "More people are still missing and the death toll could rise," the official added. "The train was carrying some 600 passengers and we have no idea just how many may have drowned."

#### U.S. Republicans elect new chairman

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — The departing Republican National Chairman Louis revealed a bitter party fight by warning that the GOP is on a "sure path to disaster" unless it softens its unyielding opposition to abortion and an image of intolerance. "America is getting more diverse, not more look-alike," Rich Bond said in a forceful farewell address to the Republican National Committee. "Our job is to recognise this change and offer platforms and candidates and policies that reflect changing times and do not cling to zealotry masquerading as principle and the stale ideas of the dead and dying past." Mr. Bond's bitter pill drew some bitter responses from party conservatives as the RNC elected Mississippi political strategist Haley Barbour the party's new chairman. Mr. Barbour, 45, a Mississippi conservative who opposed abortion in an unsuccessful 1982 Senate campaign, said Mr. Bond was right in saying Republicans needed to settle their abortion disagreement and focus instead on shared economic and national defence views. "We are the party of inclusion," he said.

#### Taiwan premier to resign

**TAIPEI (R)** — Taiwan's Premier Hau Pei-Tsun announced Saturday that he would resign to end a fierce struggle between liberal and conservative factions in the ruling Nationalist Party. "In order to conform with the current political situation, I have decided not to remain in the post of premier, and will complete the necessary formalities to resign in the next few days," Mr. Hau said in a statement. Mr. Hau, a leader of the Nationalists' conservative wing, had come under intense pressure to quit by the ruling party's mainstream liberal faction and the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Mr. Lin Yang-Kang, head of the government's judicial branch, said Mr. Hau was resigning to end a political crisis which erupted after the Nationalists suffered a major setback in last month's general elections to the legislature.

#### 5 killed in Tajik border shootout

**MOSCOW (R)** — Russian guards killed five smugglers in a shootout on his border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, ITAR-TASS News Agency said Friday. Nine smugglers tried to break through to Afghanistan in a truck. Five of the smugglers were killed, one was captured and the other three escaped into Afghan territory. There were no casualties among the border guards TASS did not say what goods the smugglers were trying to take across the border.

## PAC attacks ANC-Pretoria talks

**HARARE (R)** — The Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) has warned the South African government and the African National Congress (ANC) against imposing their bilateral agreement on the country, saying such action would lead to increased violence.

"Any attempt to impose bilateral agreements will lead to nothing else but further escalation of political violence," PAC Economic Affairs Secretary Sipho Shabalala told a meeting of

Southern African states in Harare. "We should be vigilant not to become nothing more than co-managers of reformed apartheid structures," he said in another swipe apparently aimed at the ANC.

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## Clinton decision opens doors to discussion, if nothing else

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Whether it was a civil rights victory or a disciplinary defeat, President Bill Clinton's decision Friday to begin lifting the ban on gays in the military served one undeniable purpose: It got people talking.

Gay rights advocates greeted the president's announcement as a limited victory, while military traditionalists predicted dire consequences. Either way, the ruling prompted candid talk about homosexuality — and that alone, some people said, was a victory for the gay rights movement.

"I'm pleased this is being discussed right now," said Rich Bailey, a 33-year-old computer operator in Austin, Texas, who was drummed out of the navy in 1982 for being gay. "The more open discussion we have about gays and lesbians, the more it forces people to confront their stereotypes and bigotry."

Reaction in the military varied, predictably, with some of those on both sides of the issue expressing relief.

In Columbus, Ga., army Spec. Eric Kline said a prayer of thanks when he heard that the ban on gays would be lifted until at least July. He and his roommate at Fort Benning, Spec. Corey Heath, watched the president's news conference on television at Ranger Joe's Barbershop in Columbus.

Washington State Army National Guard last year after a 26-year career, said she was "delighted that the first movement has been made," but wasn't sure what it would mean.

A spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Steve Van Burck, expressed disappointment. "The military's primary role is to fight wars, and we're concerned that lifting the ban will impair that," he said.

One retired air force officer, Lt. Col. Paul Muehring, said opening the military to gays would be the most profound social change in the service since racial integration in the 1950s.

"Normally, you look at social change as being something for the better. But I'm really not sure about this step," he said.

Gay rights advocates, of course, see the issue as an integral part of their movement to gain equal status in all segments of society.

"Every social change goes through the same revolution, like civil rights for blacks and women's right to vote," said one gay sailor in Honolulu, who declined to identify himself.

"There's a lot of homophobic people in the navy and all branches of the service, but people in the long run are going to accept it."

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## COLUMN

### Dhaka housewife beats professionals to chefs final

**EDINBURGH (R)** — A Bangladeshi housewife has beaten hundreds of professional cooks to reach the final of the International Indian Chef of the Year contest in Edinburgh. Tehmina Enayet of Dhaka will be one of eight cooks presenting a four-dish meal for four people at the final on Feb. 12. Each will have three hours to prepare the menu they submitted to an international panel of judges. Profits from the contest will go to an orphanage in Dhaka and a children's charity in Scotland.

### Audrey Hepburn gets award posthumously

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Actress Audrey Hepburn, who died last week of cancer, has been awarded the 1992 Kiwanis World Service Medal, the organisation announced. Ms. Hepburn was honoured by the Indianapolis-based service organisation for her efforts as a volunteer for the United Nations Children's Fund. The fund works to protect children from disease, starvation and natural disaster. This is the first time the award has been given posthumously, said William Lieber, president of Kiwanis International. He said Ms. Hepburn had been chosen for the award before her death on Jan. 20 and the board of trustees did not want to consider a second choice. A representative of UNICEF will accept the medal in honour of Ms. Hepburn at the Kiwanis International Convention in Nice, France. The award will be accompanied by a \$10,000 grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation, which will be used by UNICEF.

### MTV refuses to air Paul McCartney protest song

**NEW YORK (R)** — MTV, the music television network that regularly airs sexually suggestive videos, has refused to broadcast a segment in which Paul McCartney uses a profanity in a song. The song Dig By Boys Bickering is meant to be an "angry protest song against governments... refusal to act together against global pollution," the ex-Beatle's publicists, Dora Associates, said in a statement. The publicists said MTV found the song, with the word "f---ing" used seven times, was "too hot to handle." In the song, McCartney says governments are "f---ing it up for everyone."

### Waxwork Thatcher kindles passions

**LONDON (R)** — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is still one of the world's best loved and most hated politicians, although she left office two years ago, according to visitors to Madame Tussaud's waxwork museum in London. The former "iron lady", turned out of office in November 1990 and now Baroness Thatcher, topped the politics section in the museum's annual popularity poll. But she also came third in the "most hated and feared" category. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein took the top hate spot.

### Merchant brings rats to justice

**NAIROBI (R)** — A shopkeeper walked into a Kenyan police station clenching four live rats and demanded that police arrest them for ruining his bread supply. "I want these rats put in the cells and charged in court for the damage," the daily Nation quoted the man as telling police in the west Kenyan border town of Busia. "He was grilling to find out whether he was drunk or insane but was found to be sober and sound of mind and advised to contact the public health officer," the newspaper said. It did not say what happened to the rats.

### Given away, horse wins \$4,500 steeplechase

**HUNTINGDON, England (R)** — Gift horse Private Audition, who changed hands for five pence (seven cents) over a few bricks, won a steeplechase race worth £3,000 (\$4,500) by 20 lengths. The 11-year-old, winner of the 1987 Cesarewitch at Newmarket, has found a new lease of life since his retirement from the flat two years ago. Trainer Ferdie Murphy said: "It's a fabulous story because basically the horse is a total cripple and should be in the knacker's yard."